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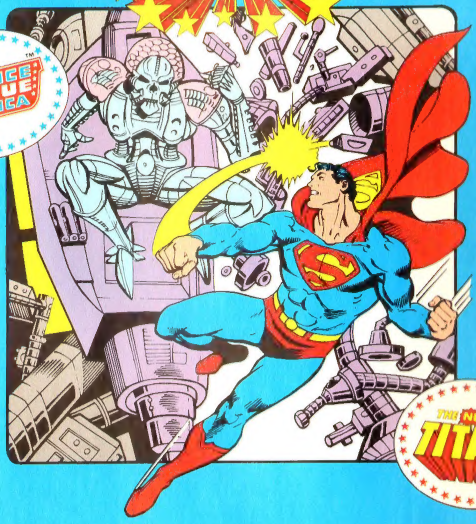

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COMICS COLLECTOR

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Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards for 1984

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3. Favorite Artist .....

4. Favorite Cover .....

5. Favorite Comic Book .....

6. Favorite Story .....

7. Favorite Book* .....

8. Favorite Character .....

9. Favorite Supporting Character .....

10. Favorite Publication about Comics .....

11. Favorite Writer about Comics .....

12. Favorite Fan Artist .....

Phil Seuling Award for Favorite Direct-Sale-Only Title .....

**"Favorite Book" can include your favorite graphic novel, favorite reprint collection, favorite book about comics, etc. — with a copyright date of 1984.*

Only material cover-dated 1984 is eligible for consideration. *Anyone may copy and circulate this ballot, and any fan may vote only once and vote for no more than one nominee in each category. Ballot-box stuffing will result in the destruction of all ballots involved. You need not vote in all categories.* ***The Comics Buyer's Guide*** *is not eligible for Category 10.*

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Please type or print your vote and information clearly.

This ballot is your chance to help pick comics fandom's favorites in comic books for 1984. Note that we specify "fandom's *favorites*," not "best."

"Best" is a highly debatable term. What is best for a company may be a title that brings in enough money to permit continuation of another title that is losing money — but that a highly trained critic would, in turn, vote for as best. But a favorite is a favorite — and you don't have to make any apologies for your own taste, background, or emotions.

We hope you'll vote. The more votes received, the more indicative the results will be of comics fans' true feelings on the industry in 1984.

You don't have to tear this page out of this issue, either. You can make your own copy, just listing the categories, your vote, and your name, age, sex, and address.

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"Could you write an article about *Doctor Who*?"

.....**Brian** McCord and Heath Hankinson, 54 Greentree Rd., Wheeling, W.V. 26003 .....

Heath, being a *Judge Dredd* fan, and I, devoted to *Doctor Who*, both liked your article on direct-sales comics.

Heath never worries about getting *Dredd* comics from comics shops; his aunt owns a newsstand in England and sends him *2000 A.D.* every month.

Could you write an article about *Doctor Who*'s 21-year history in Britain and on PBS and other stations here in America?

Also, could you publish an address for all those *Who* fans out there, of a British or American *Doctor Who* fan club?

Heath says you should write something about the many British comic books and their American reprints.

[Well, maybe we can come up with ***something*** *on* ***Doctor Who****. Try page 48 for a start.*

There are almost countless groups devoted to the series. Some of the major ones are:

• The APC Network/Time Festival, Jean Airey, 6626 Rocky Den Rd., Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

• The Companions of Doctor Who Fan Club Inc., P.O. Box 56764, New Orleans, La. 70156.

• Doctor Who Appreciation Society, 38 Hazeldean Rd., Harlesden, London NW10 8QU, England.

• Doctor Who Fan Club of America, P.O. Box 6024, Cherry Creek Station, Denver, Colo. 80206.

• Doctor Who Information Network, P.O. Box 1764, Petersburg, Ont. K9J 7X6, Canada.

• North American Doctor Who Appreciation Society, 6642 Andasol Ave., Van Nuys, Calif. 91406.

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"... you have a responsibility ..."

.....**Gary Dunsier, 67-18 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, N.Y. 11365** .....

I'm glad the independent publishers are getting national exposure through *Comics Collector*. As the only national newsstand magazine devoted to comics, you have a responsibility to those of your readers who don't have access to comics shops to inform them of books that are otherwise unavailable. Placing the price guide for direct-only comics on a single page (apart from the DC-Marvel listings) is a good idea, and I hope it continues in future issues.

Reading about independent comics is more interesting to me than reading about the history of some obscure super-hero. I can relate to the direct-sales comics more. I've been collecting since 1977, so for the most part I've had the opportunity to buy every direct-only comic that's been published. If a reviewer says *Nexus* is a good title, I can easily go to a comics shop and sample an issue. I usually skip over articles praising the virtues of long-cancelled heroes published by long-out-of-business publishers, because I don't know if I'll be able to find copies — and, if I do find them, the asking price may be high.

Money has a major influence on my comic buying — not in terms of "what will it be worth tomorrow?" but "how much is it?" *American Flagg!* is one of my favorite First comics. I've been reading it from the beginning. Therefore, I paid $1 (cover price) for issue #1. Your price guide in *Comics Collector* #6 says *AF!* #1 is worth $5. If I had to pay $5 for it, I might feel differently *because* I paid $5 and not $1.

In a similar vein, it's easier for a fan to become interested in Will Eisner's *Spirit* than in the EC comics of the '50s. Original editions of both are costly, but, if someone goes to a comics shop and sees Russ Cochran's nearly-$100 hardcover reprint volumes and Kitchen Sink's $2 comic-book format *Spirit* reprints, of the two which do you think he's going to try?

The article about Cerebus the Aardvark was interesting, but there's one thing Will Murray says that I disapprove of: "Some readers complain that it's too difficult to come into the series now ... the trick seems to be to pick up

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three or four consecutive issues . . ." At $1.70 per issue, this comes to $6.80 *just to find out what's going on!* You don't even know if you like the comic yet!

I don't like the plethora of "continued next issue" stories that are in today's comics. Generally, I feel publishers who constantly put out multi-parters think that's the only way they'll get readers to buy the next issue. I strongly object to recommendations like Murray's that suggest you buy a few issues just to be able to understand the storyline. (There's nothing wrong with sampling more than one issue of a title *because you want to*. With self-contained stories you're buying more than one issue of your own free will, not because the storyline necessitates it.)

I'd like to see some kind of news column in ***Comics Collector***, if only for those who have no access to other fanzines. Because of your quarterly frequency, it can't be anything current or late-breaking.

What I'd like to suggest is that you summarize what went on in the comics world during the previous three months. Not only would it be good for those who can't buy fanzines, but it would also be beneficial to those of us who would like a handy place to recap the events of the previous quarter-year.

I'd like to see a feature about fanzines. I realize I may be walking on thin ice here (because you publish ***The Comics Buyer's Guide*** in addition to ***Comics Collector***), but, as I mentioned in my first paragraph, I feel you owe it to *CC* readers who know little, if anything, about them. Stan Lee once wrote, "With great power comes great responsibility." National newsstand distribution is a great power the other fanzines don't have; thus, you have a great responsibility to tell everyone what else is available besides *CC* and ***CBG***, even if it means promoting the competition.

[We've heard of one comics shop whose owner maintains what amounts to a lending library of comics sets. Putting customers on their honor to keep the circulating copies in good shape, he has thus introduced new readers to good series with continuity.

Such a move requires an investment and record-keeping, and not all comics shops can offer this service. But he has found that he has increased his sales of series titles, because readers can examine them without risk.

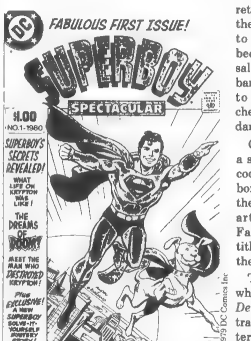
We try to give readers enough of a feeling for a title in our articles that they can guess pretty well in advance whether they'll be attracted to that title enough to want to buy it.

We suspect you speak for the majority of our readers when you discuss your buying habits and your approach to comics collecting. We just hope you — and they — keep an eye out for reprints of titles which are fun but expensive in their original format these days.

We're considering running the sort of news update you ask for. The problem we have is that it would be space-consuming and dated by the time it could appear. What do other readers think?

The problem with running fanzine reviews in ***Comics Collector*** *is that fanzines are low-if-any-profit publications, published in low print-runs. They are not designed to meet the expectations of a national newsstand audience. We do run occasional fanzine reviews in our weekly* ***CBG****, and even there we get complaints because readers send for fanzines and don't get what they expect. Some don't get anything at all. We have published fanzines over the years and found a circulation of more than 500 to be crippling — and that was when postage cost considerably less than it does now.*

We certainly don't look on fanzines as competition to ***CC*** *or* ***CBG*** *and, as noted, we cover them to an extent in* ***CBG****. We'll see what we can do about an eventual article on fanzines in* ***CC****.]*



". . .the first direct-sales comic that was done by DC in 1979. . ."

prices, P.O. Box 255, Menomonee Falls, Wis. 53051 .....

Your article about the direct-sales books was an interesting over-view that should bring the material to the attention of a number of new readers.

You should have checked the list of titles from DC, however, as it omitted the first direct-sales comic that was done by DC in 1979.

Yes, more than a year and a half before Pacific's *Captain Victory*, the first color comic produced for direct sales was *Superboy Spectacular* #1, dated 1980 and released in December 1979.

The comic book was put together for the Random House Student Book Club, but it was decided at DC to offer it on a no-return basis to the new direct-sales markets. DC was very interested in seeing if a title could sell enough through these shops without newsstands to be feasible.

The rest was history.

There are also some other points that should be made about the differences between comics with and without the UPC code.

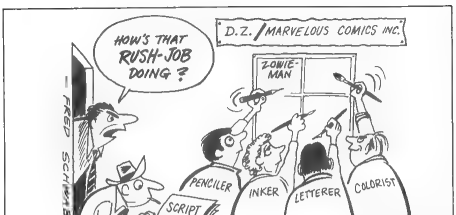
Books with the bar code are meant for the returnable marketplace, and the one with Spidey's face (or some other filler artwork) are meant to be non-returnable.

At one time it was thought that the returned comics could be inventoried by scanning the boxes and that the non-returnable copies would be kept out by the lack of a bar code. It was necessary to have two different cover types, because the company sells the direct-sales issues for less than the standard bar-code copies and there must be a way to keep shops from returning the cheaper direct-sales books to their standard periodical distributor.

Originally, the direct-sales books had a simple line printed through the bar code — with a slight difference in the box that held the date and price. Then they switched to the use of a little bit of artwork (the famous "Spider-Man Face") or a promotional blurb. (DC titles had something like "DC — Where the Action Is!")

The most amusing result of this came when Marvel picked up the rights to *Dennis the Menace* briefly, and its contract required publication of the character in regular and digest formats. At World Color Press, only the two DC digests were being done with direct-sales versions. So Marvel's first digest was sent to comics shops with copies that proclaimed, "The Biggest Little

..... Jerry Sinkovec, Street Enter-



Buy in Comics — DC," to Marvel's embarrassment.

This was the only time that the cover of a Marvel publication advised readers to buy DC comics!

"I have not seen any animation comparable to *Space Cruiser Yamato*."

..... David Albaugh, 9 Columbia Ave., Jamestown, R.I. 02835 .....

I especially enjoyed your articles by Ardith Carlton in #3 and #4 — on *Space Cruiser Yamato* and *manga* and *anime*. Thank you, Ardith, for giving these topics the recognition they deserve.

The people responsible for these masterpieces in animation should be commended for their outstanding work. I have not seen any animation comparable to that in the *Space Cruiser Yamato* series.

The characters are all portrayed realistically, and the viewer can't help having feelings for these people. The stories themselves are even somewhat believable.

Unfortunately, distribution of these features is poor, and only two have made it to the U.S.: *Space Cruiser Yamato I* and *Space Cruiser Yamato II*. Thank God for the multitude of books available from various companies throughout the U.S., especially Bud Plant Inc. and Books Nippan (to which I owe a lot of gratitude).

I would like to thank personally Yoshinobu Nishizaki, who helped create, produce, and direct the series; Reiji Matsumoto, who did the cartooning; and the people at Office Academy, Toei Doga and Tokyo Doga, who did the animation.

These people have my respect, gratitude, and the hope that they will never stop creating.

I have some comic books that were printed and distributed with two covers, one on top of the other. Do these have a higher value? Both sets of covers are in mint condition.

Also, do you know of anyone who sells videotapes and/or records from any of the *Space Cruiser Yamato* series: English or Japanese?

[There is no extra value in a comic that has two covers — though (if it's a title of rarity) you might be able to get some cash by ***carefully*** *removing the staples, removing the extra cover, and replacing the staples — and then selling the extra cover.*

We don't know what's available in Japan, but it has the same scanning system as U.S. TV. That means that what's available in Japan can be used here. (The same is ***not*** *true of British TV.)*

One firm that specializes in importing Japanese video material is Instant Replay, 479 Winter St., Waltham, Mass. 02154. You can call the company toll-free at (800) VHS-DISC; in Massachusetts it's (800) VHS BETA; in Canada it's (800) THE-INST. You can ask what Japanese animation material is available in the format you collect — and tell them ***CC*** *sent you.]*

"As the co-author of *Villains and Vigilantes*, I would like to correct several erroneous statements about our game."

.....Jack Herman .....

It has been my experience that, while most comics collectors and fans are also role-playing-game enthusiasts, many others know very little about the hobby. A vast majority of the professionals in the comics industry have absolutely no experience with RPG's (other than basic D&D recognition), and this is a pity, as the comics and gaming industries seem to grow closer every day.

To that end, I was delighted to see Kim Metzger's article in ***Comics Collector*** (and his "Role of the Dice" column in *[CC's sister publication]* ***The Comics Buyer's Guide***. They should prove to be an education to many and will, hopefully, encourage many who have not already done so to try role-playing games.

As the co-author of *Villains and Vigilantes*, however, I would like to correct several erroneous statements about our game in the article "You, Too, Can Be a Superhero!" from your Winter 1985 issue.

1. *Villains and Vigilantes* (not *Champions*) is currently the best-selling super-hero role-playing game on the market today. It sells several times more than *Champions* and has done so since our revised edition came out in 1982. I have a hunch (don't ask me why) that the two of us will both be passed in sales by TSR's *Marvel Super-Heroes* game any day now. But, for the present, I'd just like to set the record straight as far as which game is currently the best-seller.

2. Secondly, super-heroes with nasty, Wolverine-ish dispositions are quite easily worked up with the *V&V* rules. Character weaknesses such as "Low Self-Control" or "Phobia/Psychosis" are present, which make the creation of such characters a snap.

The way the rules are set up, though, a super-hero who kills or breaks the law will suffer the consequences of his actions, something rather overlooked in games in which demi-heroes run rampant. It is part of the basic laws of the super-hero genre that you are either good *or* evil.

Wolverine is, after all, still a super-hero. Characters who are truly "gray" are few and far between in super-hero comics, and, of the "gray" characters, few are in a situation in which one would wish to be in their shoes.

It is the spirit of the super-hero genre that Jeff Dee and myself have strived to be faithful to in writing *Villains and Vigilantes*. Anybody remember the line, "With great power comes great responsibility"?

Players who wish only to "hack and slash" have other outlets.

All that aside, Kim gets my thumbs up — and good luck in your continuing effort to spread the word about a unique and exciting hobby.

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The comic service is designed for people who are far from a local source of books. It is also useful to those who do not have the facilities to go hunting for books from place to place. It is welcomed as well by those fans who, although they have a local outlet, are disgruntled with the chores involved and the costs of buying off the rack.

We can solve your collecting problems. We cannot compete, however, in terms of speed with the local comic shops in your area. That's a drawback of dealing by long-distance and applies to any service. However, with our schedule, we feel that time will not be a major consideration.

We strive to give you satisfaction. However, we are human too and sometimes a mistake might accidentally pop up. In those cases (which are rare) we will promptly correct the problem to maximize your enjoyment of the comic service. We will always send exactly what your order entails. Incidentally, EVERY THREE MONTHS you will receive a computerized listing of your current standing order, so that you may make changes or adjustments if necessary.

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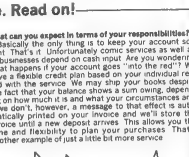
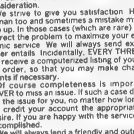
We will always lend a friendly and outgoing ear to your concerns and suggestions and welcome them to better the service for all members. That's because we consider the members of the service a "family" rather than just customers, and that extra touch goes a long way!

What can you expect in terms of your responsibilities?:

Basically the only thing is to keep your account solvent! That's it. Unfortunately comic services as well as all businesses depend on cash input. Are you wondering what happens if your account goes "into the red"? We have a flexible credit plan based on your individual record with the service. We may ship your books despite the fact that your balance shows a sum owing, depending on how much it is and what your circumstances are. If we don't, however, a message to that effect is automatically printed on your invoice and we'll store the invoice until a new deposit arrives. This allows you the time and flexibility to plan your purchases. That's another example of just a little bit more service





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Fragile Rock
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Muppet Babies
Royal Roy

SECTION 3: ARCHIE/RED CIRCLE COMICS

Archie/Red Circle First Issues
Archie Giant Series Magazine
Archie
Archie and Me
Archie at Riverdale High
Archie's Pals 'n' Gals
Archie's T.V. Laughout
Betty and Me
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Blue Ribbon Comics (Red Circle)
Everything's Archie
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Jughead
Katy Keene (New Series)
Laugh
Life With Archie
Mon Tech Robot Warriors (Red Circle)
Sabrina
Mighty Crusaders (Red Circle)
Pep
Shield (Red Circle)
Thunder Bunny (Warp)

SECTION 4: SPECIALTY AND DIRECT SALE PUBLISHERS

(Note: almost ALL the items listed in this section are DIRECT SALE ONLY and so we will dispense with the asterisks for them!)

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Starmasters (Amencomics)
American Flagg (First)
E-Man (First)
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SECTION 5: BRITISH/EAGLE COMICS

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Nemesis***
Rabbahster***
Starburst
2000 A.D. Monthly
Warrior Magazine

SECTION 6: COMIC DIGESTS

All DC Digests
All Archie Digests
Archie Where R U? Digest
Archie Comics Digest
Best of DC Digest
Archie Double Digest
Betty/Veronica Comic Digest
Jokebook Comics Digest
Jughead Jones Digest
Jughead With Archie Digest
Laugh Comics Digest
Little Archie Digest

SECTION 7: ALTERNATIVE COMICS FANZINES, AND MAGAZINES

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Heavy Metal
Heavy Metal Specials
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Love and Rockets (Fantagraphics)
Mad
Mad Specials
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Marvel Super Special (Marvel)
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National Lampoon Specials
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Omni Specials
Preuse Magazine (Supergraphics)
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Spirit Color Comic (Kitchen Sink/Capitol)
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BOOKS

By Don Thompson

• ***Rudy in Hollywood*** *by William Overgard. Holt, Rinehart and Winston trade paperback, $7.95.*

Rudy is a comic strip about a talking chimpanzee, a one-time vaudeville star attempting a comeback in modern Hollywood. It may not sound promising, particularly if you have been overexposed to movies with chimpanzees, but it is actually one of the wittiest and brightest comic strips currently appearing.

Rudy in Hollywood is the first collection from the strip. For most people, it will be their first exposure to the strip.

The book has introductory material and cover copy describing Rudy's career, treating him very much as a real, um, person. Furthermore, the strip reprinting is frequently interrupted by brief philosophical discourses by Rudy about modern life in general and show business in particular. It is all extremely entertaining, occasionally even profound.

Rudy, according to the book, was originally slated for the title role in *Bedtime for Bonzo* but dropped out before filming began. Rudy says it was because of a dispute over top billing — he felt he should appear in the credits above his lesser-known co-star, Ronald Reagan. The studio, however, says that Rudy refused to remove his clothing for the "native monkey" scenes.

Rudy hands out cheese at a supermarket, attempts to sell pet deodorant door-to-door, parks cars at a nightclub, succeeds as a stand-up comedian, vacations in Mexico, and stars on a talk show in the course of this excellent collection.

He deals with his agent, his landlady, the parrot who shares his living quarters, the nymphette neighbor who attends Hollywood Junior High School, the Beverly Hills garbage man, various unsavory underworld characters in the night-club business, waiters, hotel managers, producers, and others.

Throughout it all, we have a generous flavoring of cynicism and biting wit.

"Basically a vaudeville performer, I rank nightclubs in three groups.

"The ones where the patrons can't hear you because they're eating and drinking.

"The ones where they can't hear you because they've come to see the girls.

"And the ones where they can't hear you because they don't show up at all."

This is perhaps the most urbane and well-written comic strip published today. If *The New Yorker* ran comic strips, *Rudy* would fit right in.

Buy and read this book. If you like what you read, write to your local newspaper and suggest that it carry *Rudy*.

• ***Elfquest Book 4*** *by Wendy and Richard Pini, Donning Press, trade paperback, $12.95.*

If you check your local bookstore, you should find copies of this and the preceding three volumes somewhere in the science-fiction section.

These fantasies in comic-book form were first published in black-and-white in 20 issues of *Elfquest*, a superb comic book from WaRP Graphics. These Donning volumes mark their first appearance in color — *excellent* color, it should be noted. In a year or so, the series is to be reprinted as a color newsstand comic, distributed by Marvel Comics Group.

The four volumes constitute an epic heroic fantasy of a group of elves seeking their roots, battling hunger, thirst, and savage trolls, and finally achieving their goal after a climactic battle.

It took the Pinis eight years to complete the story and many fans of the series have been with it from the first, waiting with bated breath during the entire eight years for each succeeding installment.

Fortunately for the less patient, it is now possible to buy the entire series in these handsome, sturdy, full-color volumes and read it all at once.

If you are a fan of fantasy-adventure novels such as *The Lord of the Rings*, this series is for you. It is a true novel in comic-book form, and it is a very *good* novel, which I recommend highly.

"Try advertising your wants in *Comics Collector*."

.....Paul Gilbert, 80 Poillon Dr., Chappaqua, N.Y. 10514 .....

Finding copies of some titles is a common problem in a field where dealers mainly handle only Marvel, DC, and a few others.

I spent five years tracking down a copy of a $3 comic called *Stumbo Tinytown* #3, issued in 1964 by Harvey. I spent $100 in display and classified ads and contacted many dealers.

Finally, I decided to go outside regular comics circles and put a classified ad in *Comics Collector*, which is sold on newsstands and is, thus, read by people who are not necessarily comics collectors.

It worked.

A 13-year-old boy called me up and said he had it. He was not a collector, but his older brother had been and had given him his collection.

This $3 comic was really scarce. It was the only missing one in a collection of 1400! I had used *The Comics Buyer's Guide* successfully to get most of the others and had also attended comics conventions, etc. to track down some of the others.

In the ad, I had offered $40 for a copy. The boy explained that there was a tape patch on the cover, tears, etc. So I gave him $30, a copy of an old Overstreet *Price Guide*, and the current issue of *CBG*, to start him off in comics as a reader and collector.

In short, you might try advertising your wants in *Comics Collector*, as I did. You never can tell.

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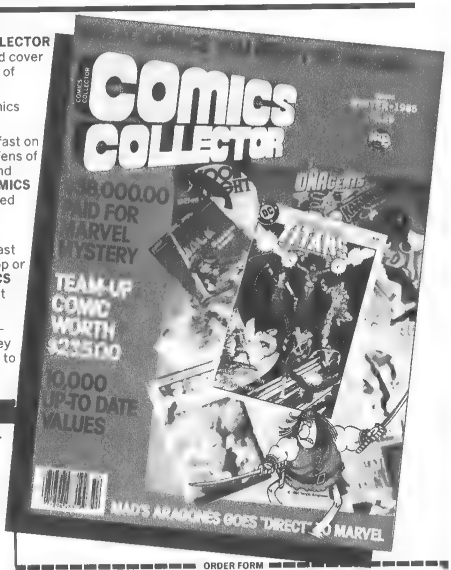
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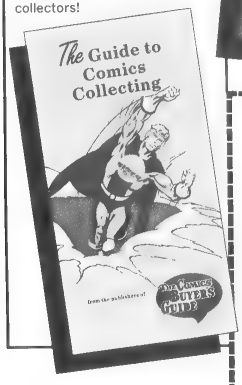

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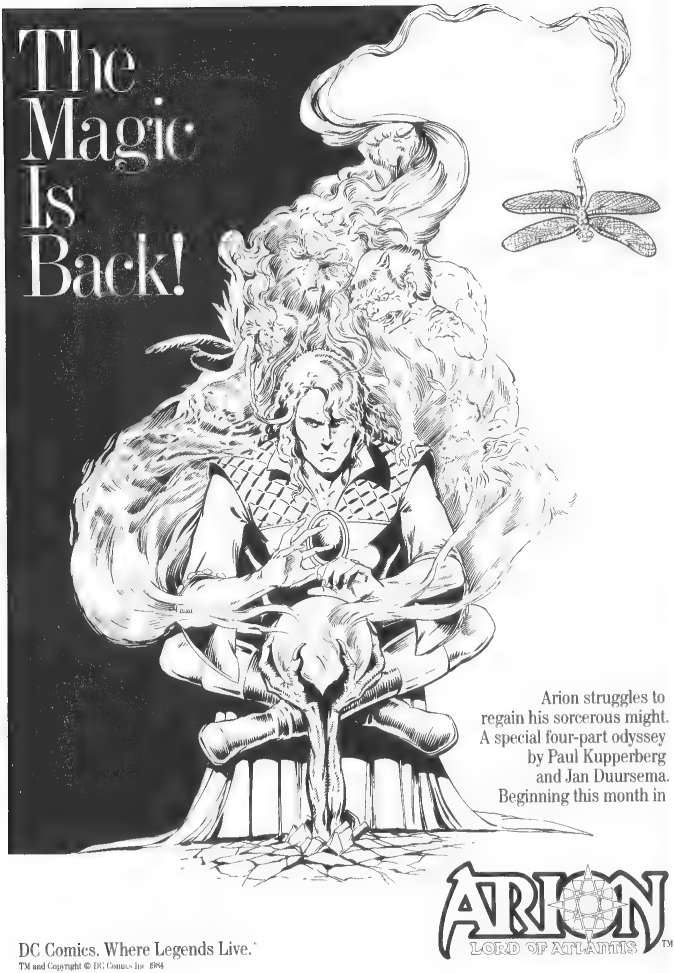
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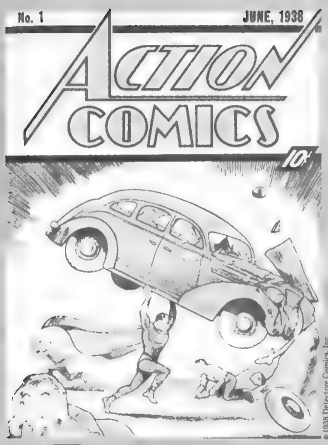

RARE and/or VALUABLE

By Lawrence Watt-Evans

When newspapers or popular magazines do stories on comic collecting, they often point with astonishment to the huge prices commanded by a few issues — *Action Comics* #1 at $14,000 or *Marvel Comics* #1 for $17,500 — and make comments about "funny books" being sufficiently rare to bring such outrageous sums. New collectors, or even those who have been around for awhile but haven't really thought about it, also assume that any such high-priced item is rare and hard to find. Some people carelessly assume that *Marvel Comics* #1 must be the rarest comic, since it's the most valuable.

That simply isn't the case. "Rare" and "valuable" are not the same thing at all.

This fact may come as a shock to many neophyte fans, but it's true, all the same; rare comics aren't necessarily valuable, and valuable comics aren't necessarily rare.

"Rare" means that there aren't very many of them around. Robert Overstreet, in his absolutely indispensible *The Comic Book Price Guide* (the best available compilation of basic information on what comic books are out there), defines "rare" as "10 to 20 copies estimated to exist," ranking it between "very rare" — 1 to 10 copies — and "scarce" — 20 to 100 copies. He doesn't say *anything* about prices or value in that definition.

"Valuable" means someone out there is willing to pay a lot of money for it. Overstreet doesn't provide a convenient definition of that one, unfortunately, but it shouldn't be hard to devise one. Let us say, then, that "expensive" means an item can readily be sold for over $100, "valuable" means we can get over $250, and "very valuable" means over $1,000. Does that seem reasonable?

Your own definitions may vary, depending on your tax bracket. There

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LOOK! THEY JUST SENT THUNDER MASTER #1, ONE OF THE FEW COPIES KNOWN!
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ONLY COST ME $50!
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are collectors who consider it an unforgivable splurge to pay $10 for a Golden Age issue of *Superman*, while others will gladly shell out thousands of dollars for obscure items. However, for the purposes of this article, we'll use these definitions.

Logically, then, at first glance it might seem that any very rare item should also be very valuable, and that any very valuable item should be very rare.

The latest comic book from First or Pacific will cost you more than this genuinely rare item.

Let's check that out, using information I've compiled over the past two years.

Marvel Comics #1, it's generally agreed, is the single most valuable comic book. A mint copy, according to Overstreet, is worth around $17,500, and there have definitely been sales in the several thousands of dollars for copies in considerably less than mint condition. Is it rare?

Well, I happen to know of ten copies and have heard from collectors who claim to know of 25 or even 50. It's not exactly common, then, but it doesn't appear to fit Overstreet's handy definition of "rare," if there are 25 or 50 copies.

What about *Action Comics* #1?

Once again, I know of 10 copies, maybe 11. This time, however, I don't have any counts from anyone else, and there's no knowing how many are actually out there. I have seen a few, over the years; I'm sure there are more than 10 in the country. It's not "very rare," then, but it *is* "very valuable."

Well, then, if the famous expensive books aren't rare, what is? And what are these rare items worth?

Well, let's take an extreme case. *The Comic Book Price Guide* lists something called *Supergear Comics* #1, published in 1976 in a very small print-run, of which over half was apparently destroyed. Overstreet estimates this comic to be rare and labels it as "rare." What price does he put on this gem?

In perfect mint condition, it's worth 80¢, he says; if it's less than fine, it's not worth bothering with at all.

The latest comic book from First or Pacific will cost you more than this genuinely rare item.

"How can this be?" some people will wail. The mental connection between "rare" and "valuable" is one that a lot of collectors are very reluctant to give up.

Maybe age has something to do with it, then?

Not really. Just as an example, *Western Love Trails* #9 is a comic book cover-dated March 1950, published by Ace. Overstreet doesn't mark it as "rare," but the best information I have is that only one copy is actually known to exist. That may be wrong, but I've never located any others, and I have been looking. That one copy is the one that was reported to Mr. Overstreet so that he could list it in his *Guide*.

Furthermore, I know of one copy each of #7 and #8 of the same title, which as of this writing aren't in the *Guide* at all — though I believe they'll be in the 1985 edition. Other copies may exist, but, if nobody even knew of them at all for so long, they can't be common. So here's another rare title, more than 30 years old — and it's worth all of $6 in fine condition.

At that, that price is just an estimate; how can you set a price on something that's never sold?

If it's not rarity or age that determines price, what is it? That's easy: demand. Supply and demand, in theory, but in practice it's mostly demand. A comic book is worth whatever someone is willing to pay for it.

Robert Overstreet compiles his price guide based on sales reported to him and, where none are reported, his estimates are based on what similar items have gone for — which is how he can give a "mint" price for comics of which no mint copies are known to exist and how he can give prices for comics that have never been sold.

His prices, like ***Comics Collector***'s guide to the values of more recently published comics, aren't The Ultimate Authority, however; they're just a *guide*. A comic book is worth what someone is willing to pay. Someone out there somewhere was recently willing to pay more than $35,000 for a mint-condition copy of *Marvel Comics* #1. *I* wouldn't have paid that much, even if I had had it, but *somebody* did.

Why are comics like that so valuable? Because there are people willing to pay that much. Why are there people willing to pay that much? Because there are some very determined collectors, with plenty of money, who have been unable to find copies for less.

This is where supply comes in — if a comic is rare *and* in demand, it becomes valuable. Rarity alone won't do it; if there are only three copies in the world

of some issue, but only two people want it, the third copy is worthless. If there are three copies and *four* people want it, that same copy might be worth a fortune, depending on just how rich and determined those four people are.

There may only be one surviving copy of *Western Love Trails* #9 — but quite possibly *nobody* wants it. Or there may be a dozen or a hundred, but nobody's cared enough to point them out. In any case, it's fairly clear that the supply, skimpy as it is, is more than enough to meet the demand — whereas the supply of such a recent "hot" comic as *X-Men* #94 might not be enough, even though there are probably a couple of hundred thousand of them.

So don't pay high prices for an item just because it's rare or scarce — if it actually is. If it's actually in demand, then ask yourself why it's for sale at all.

If there are three copies of a comic and four people want it, that copy might be worth a fortune, depending on just how rich and determined those four people are.

And don't believe anyone who tells you a particular item is rare; the fact is, nobody really knows what's rare and what isn't, beyond making educated guesses. Overstreet isn't infallible — if he were, the issues designated "scarce" and "rare" wouldn't change each year and he wouldn't have had to revise his definitions every so often.

A dealer may have been in business for a decade without ever seeing a copy of, say, *Monster Crime* #1 — but, for all anyone knows, there's a warehouse full somewhere, waiting to be found.

Some issues vary in scarcity in different parts of the country, being hard to find in one area and common to the point of worthlessness somewhere else. Some issues may be fairly common but simply aren't offered for sale for one reason or another.

A comic book is worth what someone is willing to pay for it — and a comic book is worth *to you* whatever *you* are willing to pay for it!

The $38,000 (-$1,500) Comic Book

In the Winter 1985 issue of *Comics Collector*, we reported that a copy of *Marvel Comics* #1 had just been sold for $35,000 cash and a mint-condition copy of *Detective* #28, which we valued at $3,000. Therefore, we announced that *Marvel Comics* #1 had been sold for a record total cost of $38,000.

As soon as the issue appeared, we received a call from a dealer who said the circumstances were not as we had been told. He told us that the price was well below the report that had reached us and gave us the buyer's name and number, so that we could report the event more accurately.

We called the buyer and read to him the report we had run. The dealer was correct that we had been misinformed — but not about the cash involved.

The error lay in our description of the condition of the issue of *Detective* #28; it had actually been in only *near-mint* condition, not mint. The buyer estimated its value at $1,500.

"I don't really consider it part of the deal," said the buyer. "I gave it to the guy as a favor for finding the *Marvel* #1 for me, and for letting me pay it off over a period of time instead of in one lump."

The buyer also wanted to make clear that the man who sold the copy of *Marvel Comics* #1 to him did not act as an intermediary in the sale. "He is buying *Marvel Mystery* #2-11 for me, but he was buying [*Marvel Comics*] #1 for himself at the time." It was only after buying the first issue that he decided to resell it for the record amount.

The buyer said that, otherwise, the story was accurate.

We bring you this update for two purposes: (1) We want to correct any errors we inadvertently make, so that readers can use *Comics Collector* for accurate research, and (2) We want to emphasize again the importance of condition when placing a value on a comic book. In this case, the adjustment in value from mint to near-mint meant a difference in price of $1500.

COMICS COLLECTOR'S CORNER

HYPER VIPER
BEING A FELLOW SUPERHERO PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP ME. WHEN YOU SHED YOUR SKIN, WHERE DO YOU HIDE IT SO NO ONE DISCOVERS YOUR SECRET IDENTITY?

Selling Your Comics

As national advertisers we get many inquiries from collectors all over the country about purchasing their collections. This is great — that's why we spend money for ads.

If you'd like to sell your collection, the following hints will help:

(1) Sell it locally. Unless you have extremely rare Golden Age comics or very expensive, high-grade Silver Age ones, you can save a lot of time and money by going to a local shop or dealer. If he doesn't offer enough, chances are a guy 1000 miles away won't, either. 90% of the comics offered to us are Marvels from 1964 to the present. If that's what you've got to sell, don't bother sending out lists.

(2) Be willing to break up your collection. A dealer isn't going to want to have to buy a double run of ***Spider-Woman*** *just to get a copy of* ***Thor*** *#337. Sure, the good stuff will go first, and you'll probably be stuck with the junk, but* ***all*** *shop owners have to face that problem every day. You'll get a higher price for the better items, if you don't force a dealer to buy the stuff he doesn't want*

(3) On expensive titles, expect to send them to dealers on approval pending a look at their condition. Most collectors are not experts on grading. Moondog's won't send someone a check for $500 when we've never met him or have no references about him. And you should know whom you're doing business with, too. Ask the dealer for references before sending anything.

(4) With all lists and inquiries, ***always*** *send a self-addressed, stamped envelope. We receive 25-35 letters each week. We* ***never*** *respond, if there is no SASE. We* ***always*** *respond, if one is enclosed.*

With the slump in back-issue sales still a reality, this is not a great time to sell Marvels, DC, and much of anything from the last 20 years

Hold on to these titles and wait for the market to come back. Don't worry, it will

Now's a great time to sell Golden Age super-hero comics, especially DC's. The market is very active, and dealers are paying great prices for top-condition items. — ***By Gary Colabuono, proprietor of Moondog's Comics, which buys and sells old comics. This is one dealer's point of view; other dealers may take other approaches.***

On Writing Comics

"A knowledge of design and layout can only help a comics writer. The best textbooks are the comic magazines themselves. Study Jack Cole, Jack Kirby, Bob Brown, Russ Heath, Andru/Esposito, Joe Kubert, Carmine Infantino, and Bob Oksner. Study bad artists, too — you can sometimes learn more from them" — *DC writer Arnold Drake, interviewed in* ***Amazing Masters*** *#4 (April 1967).*

Reading Fan Mail

"Everything in comics is the most, the best, the farthest out, the weirdest, the most cosmic. There's no "just cosmic" or "just OK" stuff. Everything is in superlatives, and the fans have become almost trained to write like that. There is not much restraint in fan letters, not much controlled praise. You have to take everything with a grain of salt. And I do." — *Steve Gerber in* ***Pittsburgh Fan Forum*** *#29/30, March-April 1977.*

JOYS OF COLLECTING.
I SEE ALL YOUR COMICS ARE IN PLASTIC BAGS.
YES.
BUT WHAT'S IN THIS BAG? IT'S TRANSPARENT.
A REAL RARITY!
THIS IS ONE OF THE VERY FIRST PLASTIC COMIC BAGS!

Don't Be Cruel to Your Comics!

Though comic-book paper is improving, it should still be treated with care — and paper of Golden and Silver Age comics is fragile!

Newsprint was never intended for long-term storage and will disintegrate from its own chemical action, if you're not careful.

- Keep comics out of heat.
- Keep comics away from strong light. (If you frame an old comic book and hang it in a sunny spot, the issue will discolor, and its cover's colors will fade.)
- Keep your comics dry.
- Don't handle comic books roughly or fold the pages over as you read.

But why? Weren't comics meant to be read by kids, who handled them any which way?

Yes. And that's one reason why so few copies of the classics remain for today's collectors.

7 Ways to Treasure Hunt for Valuable Comics

Aye, though those chests full of gold dubloons and priceless jewels may have disappeared along with the pirates that once searched for them, there are still thousands of old and valuable comic books waiting to be found in your town!

Search your area using the suggestions below and ***Comics Collector*** as your map (to tell you what your find is worth), and you'll be digging up old comics that will give you not only hours of reading pleasure, but also the possibility of a monetary bonus! Good luck, matey!

1. The first place to check is local flea markets. Many merchants at these markets often sell older comic issues at such discount prices as five for $1. Ask the flea-market manager if he or she knows anyone who has comics for sale. If the manager does, you will probably save time — instead of going from individual table to table at large markets.

It's best to go to flea markets early, so you can be one of the first to see what's available. And even the search for comics without any notion of who has them for sale can be exciting! When you *do* find people with comics for sale, ask them if they have any more at home. If they *do* have comics that you're interested in, take down their phone number and see if they will let you see them personally — or arrange for them to meet you with the comics at the next market. With this information, you should be just "itching" to go to the fleas!

2. Look for comics at the Salvation Army or similar thrift stores. I once found a copy of Marvel's *Daredevil* #8 at one for 10¢. There is usually a good mixture of comics here — even rare comic-book "give-aways," which are free comics that are often distributed in special areas of the country.

3. Rummage sales and garage sales are good sources, too. Look in your newspaper's classified advertisement section for the dates and locations of these events. If there is a phone number listed in the advertisement, call to ask whether any comics will be on sale and, if so, what titles they are.

4. Antique stores may have a section devoted to old comics or Sunday comic strips. The managers of such stores may even agree to trade comics, on a two-for-one basis. (That is, you give him two of your unwanted comics for one of the comics in the store.) One day a friend of mine walked out of an antique store with a copy of *X-Men* #100 in near-mint condition, which he had paid 15¢ for. He said, "There's another one in there." My feet ran into the store so fast, not even The Flash could have caught up with me! Sure enough, there was another *X-Men* #100, though it was only in "fine" condition — but, hey, who's complaining?!

5. Book stores can sometimes have a back issues box for comics that are outdated from a few months to a year. A place I used to go sold these back issues for one-half of the cover price. I remember this store so well, because I bought a mint run of *Daredevil* #159-170 for just 20¢ per issue. This was a few months before Frank Miller issues started to skyrocket in value. (Sigh . . . if only I had been there a month earlier — I could've had his first story, #158!)

6. Check barber shops. Believe it or not, old comics can often be found here. Some barbers buy comics for people to read while waiting for a haircut, and the comics may sit in the shop for many years.

7. Ask your friends and relatives if they have any comics. You'd be surprised, but your non-collector friends will sometimes have some comics hidden away at home in a closet. Wouldn't you love to hear a pal say, "Comics? Oh yeah . . . I've got a few boxes of old ones in my attic. I think they're old EC's!"? — *By Don Chin, an avid comic-book collector for eight years, who writes for* ***Cracked*** *magazine and has a column in* ***The Comics Buyer's Guide.***

When You Buy a Comic

You'll be able to keep track of your collection best if you do the following when you buy any comic, new or old:

• Get a receipt or make a note of what you spent and when you made the purchase.

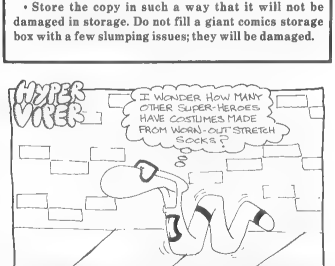
• Bag the comic book in a comics-storage bag (*not* a food-storage bag).

• After you've read the issue and are ready to file it, check its condition carefully, using your *Comics Collector* condition guide. Using a self-adhesive label, list the issue month and year, number, condition, what you paid for it, and when you bought it. If you want to keep track of such other information as artist, writer, or characters involved, list that information as well. Then put the label on the bag.

• You may decide you want to give the comic book extra support in the form of a "backing board," an acid-free cardboard inserted in the bag. If so, insert the backing board with the issue when you put it in the bag.

• Cross that issue off your want-list, if it's a back issue. If it's a current issue, you might add the next issue to your want-list with a note on when to look for it in shops. If your copy was not in as good condition as you want for your collection, you should note on your want-list that you need a replacement copy.

• Store the copy in such a way that it will not be damaged in storage. Do not fill a giant comics storage box with a few slumping issues; they will be damaged.

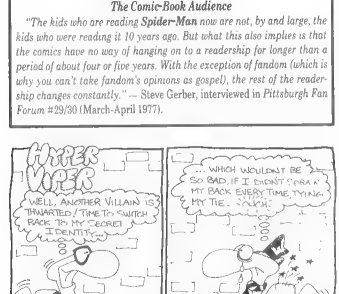


When *GL* Changed Directions

"When *Green Lantern* #76 came out, in one glorious sweep I was accused of beng a paid agent of Red China (my wife wanted to know where the extra money was going) and a fascist pig. I don't know what to do about pollution or race problems. So we're not going to propagandize in the sense that we have a certain point of view that we're pushing. It's more like a cry of outrage." — *Denny O'Neil, interviewed in* ***Grafan*** *#7 (May 1971). That issue of* ***Green Lantern*** *was recently reprinted for the direct-sale market by DC*

The Comic-Book Audience

"The kids who are reading ***Spider-Man*** *now are not, by and large, the kids who were reading it 10 years ago. But what this also implies is that the comics have no way of hanging on to a readership for longer than a period of about four or five years. With the exception of fandom (which is why you can't take fandom's opinions as gospel), the rest of the readership changes constantly."* — Steve Gerber, interviewed in *Pittsburgh Fan Forum* #29/30 (March-April 1977).


HYPER VIPER
WELL, ANOTHER VILLAIN IS THWARTED / TIME TO SWITCH BACK TO MY SECRET IDENTITY!
... WHICH WOULDN'T BE SO BAD, IF I DIDN'T SCRATCH MY BACK EVERY TIME, TRYING TO MY TIE... SCUCH!

Today's Comics Publishers

Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc.
(519) 576-0610
P.O. Box 1674, Station "C"
Kitchener, Ont. N2G 4R2
Canada

Americomics
(305) 339-3055
Box 1216
Longwood, Fla. 32750

Archie Productions, Inc.
(914) 381-5155
325 Fayette Ave.
Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543

Comico
1547 DeKalb St.
Norristown, Pa. 19401

DC Comics Inc.
(212) 484-2800
666 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10103

Eclipse Enterprises
(212) 667-1924
81 Delaware St.
Staten Island, N.Y. 10304

Fantagraphics Books
707 Camino Manzanas
Thousand Oaks, Calif. 91360

First Comics, Inc.
(312) 864-5330
1014 Davis St.
Evanston, Ill. 60201

Kitchen Sink Press/Comix
(414) 295-6922
No. 2 Swamp Rd.
Princeton, Wis. 54968

Marvel Comics Group
(212) 696-0808
387 Park Ave. S.
New York, N.Y. 10016

WaRP Graphics
2 Reno Rd.
Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603

A Differing View of Comics

"I have found the effect of comic books to be first of all anti-educational. They interfere with education in the larger sense. For a child, education is not merely a question of learning, but is a part of mental health. They do not 'learn' only in school; they learn also during play, from entertainment and in social life with adults and with other children. To take large chunks of time out of a child's life — time during which he is not positively, that is, educationally, occupied — means to interfere with his healthful mental growth." — *Fredric Wertham, M.D., in his book* ***Seduction of the Innocent****, published in 1954*

John Byrne Draws

"I draw. I draw all the time I'll quote John Buscema, 'I draw all the time.'

"That's what I do all the time. If I haven't had a really rough day at the drawing board, and I'm just sitting there watching TV, I draw. I draw when I'm eating." — John Byrne, in the SQ Productions Inc. publication *The Art of John Byrne*, published by Sal Quartuccio in 1980.

How *Mad*'s Editor Got into Comics

"I got into the comic-book business having never read a comic book. I found out from a friend of mine at the High School of Music and Art that you could make $30 a page drawing comic books. So I got a job." — *Al Feldstein, speaking at the EC Fan Addict Convention in New York City, Memorial Day weekend 1972.*

Comics in 1942

"Naturally, the paper situation during the war was a difficult thing for comic books. They weathered the storm, however, amazingly well. Figures compiled in the summer of 1942 show that the volume of comic books published had fallen from the peak in 1940 of 168 [titles] to about 100, but the circulation, which was about 150 million a year, or 12 million to 15 million a month, had not dropped. The annual revenue was $15 million, of which about 75% came from the children's own purchasing." *Statistics related by author Coulton Waugh in his book* ***The Comics****, published in 1947 by The Macmillan Company.*

HEY, GUYS! CHECK OUT "WONDER-WORM OVER HERE / SMASH!
AND RODNEY DANGERFIELD COMPLAINS ABOUT NO RESPECT! SHEESH!
WHERE'S VIPER
© National Comics

Comics Beginnings

Modern collectors look on Richard Outcault's "Yellow Kid" as the first major modern comic-strip character. The strip first appeared in the New York *Journal* on Oct. 18, 1896 — and gave its name to "yellow journalism."

The evolution from comic strips to comic books took a bit longer. *Famous Funnies* #1 (with a cover date of July) went on sale in May 1934. It was begun by Eastern Color salesman Max C. Gaines, ran for 218 issues over the next 21 years, was the first monthly comic book, and sold for 10¢.

Start of the Silver Age of Comics

Usually cited as the comic book that began the Silver Age is *Showcase* #4 (Sept.-Oct. 1956), which reintroduced The Flash. He had been a DC superhero from the '40s, and the issue contained two "modern-day" Flash stories, "Mystery of the Human Thunderbolt!" (12 pp.) and "The Man Who Broke the Time Barrier!" (10 pp.).

Top Titles of the Summer

This list shows the top 10 titles for each month of the summer, as indicated by dealers' orders from Capital City Distribution, Inc., in Madison, Wis. While it is an indication of how well the titles sold in comics shops, other distributors' figures may differ:

May

Secret Wars #5	*Alpha Flight* #14
X-Men #185	*Amazing Spider-Man* #156
New Teen Titans #2	*Tales of the Teen Titans* #46
New Mutants #19	*Fantastic Four* #270
West Coast Avengers #1	*DC Releases*

June

Secret Wars #6	*Amazing Spider-Man* #257
X-Men #186	*Tales of the Teen Titans* #47
New Teen Titans #3	*West Coast Avengers* #2
New Mutants #20	*Fantastic Four* #271
Alpha Flight #15	*Doctor Who* #1

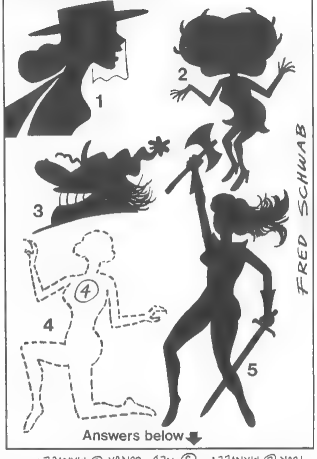
July

Secret Wars #7	*Amazing Spider-Man* #158
Kitty Pryde and Wolverine #1	*Tales of the Teen Titans* #48
X-Men #187	*West Coast Avengers* #3
New Mutants #21	*Fantastic Four* #272
Alpha Flight #16	*Fantastic Four Annual* #18

August

Secret Wars #8	*New Teen Titans* #4
Kitty Pryde and Wolverine #2	*Alpha Flight* #17
X-Men #188	*West Coast Avengers* #4
X-Men Annual #8	*Fantastic Four* #273
New Mutants #22	*Tales of the Teen Titans* #49

Who are we?



① LADY LUCK ② BILL EISNER ③ BROOM-HILDA ④ TRIBE ⑤ SWAN ⑥ SUE STORM /FANTASTIC FOUR ⑦ MARVEL ⑧ RED SONJA ⑨ MARVEL ⑩ BETTY BOOP ⑪ KES

It grew out of a conversation with Wendy Pini. She is the creator of the phenomenal success *Elfquest* (edited and published by her husband, Richard). More than a year ago, Wendy and I talked about women in comics — women as characters, women as creators, and women as readers.

Whenever we met at a convention after that, we would continue the discussion, each pitching new ideas at the other as we explored the topic. As time went on, we asked others for their ideas. Eventually, not as an outgrowth of our conversation, we appeared as part of a panel on women's views of comics at the 1984 San Diego Comic-Con.

By Maggie Thompson

Wendy and I agreed to get a panorama of views from others in the field to put together a symposium of sorts — to come up with a discussion which wouldn't end with a waiter's bringing the bill or a master of ceremonies' clearing the room to make way for the next panel.

Towards that end, we tape-recorded an hour-long discussion and circulated it among several professionals and a few fans. Understandably, not all who received the material had time — or the desire — to respond. But several offered their perspectives on the topic — a topic which has been explored from more limited viewpoints in the past.

Of previous examinations, the best known are *Ms. Magazine*'s promotion of Wonder Woman as the symbol of women's equality and Maurice Horn's book *Women in the Comics* (New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1977).

There were a number of women who felt that, whatever her admirable qualities as a comic-book character, Wonder Woman was a character more symbolic of female dominance and supremacy than of women's equality. But she did bring women in comics to national attention — and by her figure-head status did promote recognition of outstanding women in real life.

The Horn book was one man's overview of the field from 1897 to 1977. It covered the topic of women in comics by decades or longer periods — followed by brief views of a great number of characters. The emphasis was on comic strips, rather than comic books, and the commentary was written with his personal slant on the topic.

Both of these widely known promotions of women in comics made one thing clear: There are a vast variety of views on the topic — too vast to be covered in one article by one writer (and, obviously, too vast to be covered comprehensively in 10 pages in *Comics Collector*).

What *can* be done is to present a mosaic of aspects of women in comic books as characters, professionals, and readers. Views other than mine are identified by contributor.

Jo Duffy, *Assistant Editor on Marvel's Epic line*

Women in comics is an issue I've sort of stayed away from, and rather resentfully, because it seems to imply that there are *people* who do comics and then *women* who do comics — and that there is a difference.

I find the whole issue to be kind of ridiculous, because there are so many of us working now in so many capacities in this industry, and obviously we have no shared insights or aesthetics.

Women as creators are no more in agreement about what our role is or should be — or who and what our audience is or should be — than we are with any of the male creators of the industry.

Wendy Pini
(Creator of Elfquest)

It depends on who's portraying them, but (since it is still basically a male-dominated industry) we have to kind of concentrate on how men, at various ages in their lives, choose to portray women — because you have middle-aged men working as artists and writers, and then you have the young men working as artists and writers. There's a difference in point of view.

I find that the older artists and writers tend to have a more classically stereotyped representation of women. You know, Stan Lee has them using dialogue that they would've used way back in the '60s or even earlier, and the hairdos are always more subdued, and everything conforms to a silhouette that one has been used to for 20 or 30 years.

The younger artists, the Bill Sienkiewiczes and — oh, who else is a little bit wild? I don't know if, even there, there is a holistic view of women that any number of women can truly identify with. It's more kind of the male's personal preference, his personal vision of an idealization.

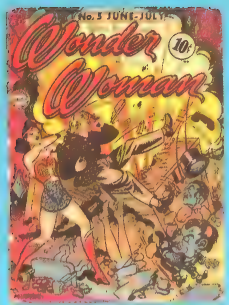
I think that there's a good deal of value in those very stereotypes that we often denigrate. I think the only reason we denigrate them is because overuse takes away their meaning from them — just like you see too many dragons and unicorns and you forget the deep and gorgeous mythology underneath and its symbolism.

There is no question that male characters, both in their personalities and in the activities they go through and in the way they look, are stereotypes, just as the women are.

I think the difference is that the stereotypes of the males conform more to the mindset of the males creating them. And the stereotypes of the females are yet again removed, because they're

(PINI, Page 33)

WOMEN IN COMICS
WHEEEEE!
NAUGHTY! NAUGHTY!
CRASH!
WHEEEEE!
Little DOT
SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND LOIS LANE
THE DARING NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERGIRL
Ms. MARVEL
ALIEN WORLDS
ARCHIE COMICS GROUP
Betty Me
DIARY LOVE
THE AMAZON OF THE SEAS
BABE
FIRST EDITION
Torchy



© 1943 Wonder Woman Publishing Company, Inc.

© 1976 Marvel Comics Group

© 1943 Fawcett Publications, Inc.

Women as They Are Portrayed in Comics

By Will Eisner

Comics (strips and books) have always reflected the mores and cultural level of their audience. So, in order to enchant or entertain, they dealt with women as they did with men, i.e. within the social norms acceptable to their readers.

To quote Archie Bunker, "... men were men, and girls were girls"! From the beginning comics respected that dictum as a natural law. Comics treated women as folk tales do: creatures to be protected or rescued — a role that appeals to man's most primitive self-image and relates to the establishment of his manhood.

In the daily newspaper strips, which were more sensitive to the changes in the accepted role of women, their treatment was parallel to the history of their status as the readers perceived them. I give you "Momma" in *The Katzenjammer Kids*; "Maggie" in *Bringing up Father*; and on to *Blondie* and "Wilma" in *Buck Rogers*; thence to "Olive Oyl" in *Thimble Theater*; *Fritzi Ritz* the working girl, "Dale" in *Flash Gordon*, and "The Dragon Lady" in *Terry & the Pirates*. Yes, even *Krazy Kat*! Each reflected the time.

Early comic books, on the other hand, were confined to the younger male reader and offered fantasy adventure that would reinforce manhood. In comic books raw power was (and is) what it is all about. Women served in the role that young boys usually assign to them.

Gradually, as the women of the '30s began to assume a larger role in the earning side of society, the comic books responded. After Amelia Earhart — the lady pilot — why not a comic-book heroine?

I maintain that comics artists don't create accepted norms; they recognize the norms early! Years after Al Capp introduced Sadie Hawkins Day, it remains a popular folk legend. In chasing men Sadie Hawkins really reinforced the commonly accepted male superiority (read that "dominance") feeling.

© 1985 Will Eisner

© 1983 Dave Stevens & Bruce Jones

Models, Girlfriends, Little Girls, and a Few Heroines

As you look through the history of women featured in their own comic books, you find there are four primary "types" of major characters: women who exist to model fashion designs, girlfriends of central male characters, little girls, and heroines. There are not many of the latter who have starred alone in long-running titles.

Wonder Woman had her own title in 1942, and it is still running today, after more than 300 issues. Archie's girlfriends starred in *Betty & Veronica*, which had its first issue in 1950 — and is still running after more than 300 issues.

Little Lulu no longer appears in comic-book form, though her title had more than 250 issues, but that is because her publisher no longer publishes comics for newsstands. Her fans are so enthusiastic that Another Rainbow, one of the field's major reprint publishers, will begin production of a deluxe reprint edition of her stories in 1985.

Blondie, a character who does not quite fit the categories I've listed — but who originated in comic *strip* form — had 222 issues of her own title, which ran from 1947 to 1976.

And *Little Dot*, *Lois Lane*, *Patsy Walker*, and *Millie the Model* had their own comics which each ran for more than 100 issues.

Bill Woggon, creator of ***Katy Keene****, the foremost "model" character in comics, appeared at the 1984 San Diego Comic-Con with Barb Rausch, who has designed fashions for many comics characters.* ***Katy*** *appeared on Bob Overstreet's 1984* ***Price Guide****.*

PINI

(From Page 30)

being done by men. So they are even shallower than the stereotypes of the males.

I think that men don't understand how much like them, mentally, women are. Men go for "*vive la difference*" — or you hear, "Women! I don't understand them!" But women have a lot of the same feelings. They're not generally allowed to express them, because it's considered too aggressive or too hostile or not being feminine enough.

The epitome of the *traditional* woman as portrayed in comics is Lois Lane and Lana Lang — which is sort of the middle-aged male's attitude towards a young, attractive female. There is a thing for Lois at DC that you would no believe. I don't know what this mystique is that this button-down character has, but it's just amazing!

Women as represented in comics certainly are sex objects. They're adolescent sex objects. When I think of The Dazzler, I remember a splash panel of her, where her right breast was larger than her head. (And Corben's in a class by himself. It's like Frazetta: You either appreciate it for what it is or you're repelled by it.)

Chris Claremont's women are always cited as being some of the best examples of good characterization. I have no doubt, knowing Chris as I do, that he has a certain sympathy for how women think. Any man who could make the statement that women are brought up to think for men as well as for themselves (and that, therefore, they write better males) probably works in the reverse.

He's a good communicator, so I guess I would have to go along with those who say that Chris' women are well characterized.

John Byrne is doing a better job with Sue Storm than anyone else has done in a long time. I would guess the way John is portraying her is that she's somewhere in her late 30s, at the very earliest. He does seem to be trying to give her a brain, but at the same time she seems to be matching Reed in the stiltedness of her speech.

Trina Robbins

(Artist/writer currently working on Marvel's Star Comics project)

Among comic-book "women of note," there are a lot of jungle girls. I can think of Camilla, Tiger Girl, South Sea Girl, and Rulah, right off the bat.

If I had to pick a single favorite female character, I guess it would have to be Sheena, although Tiger Girl (as drawn by Matt Baker) is surely the most beautiful and is really just Sheena in a tiger skin instead of a leopard skin, since she *was* written by the same woman who wrote Sheena: Ruth Roche.

So I'll say Sheena, but I really mean Generic Jungle Girl as published by Fiction House and written by Ruth Roche.

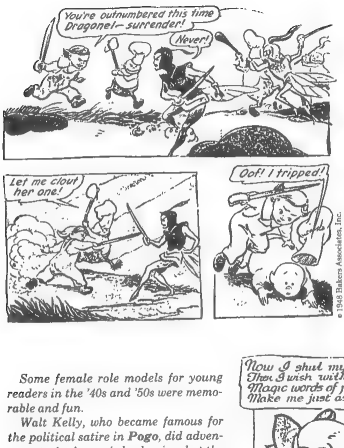
And, while we're talking about pioneering in women's equality before it became fashionable, let's not forget Fiction House.

Sheena, Camilla, Wonder Woman, Mary Marvel — all existed either prior to World War II or were born during the war. Even some of the milder and/or wimpier ones (Patsy Walker, Lois Lane) predate the end of the war. I consider the end of the war the beginning of the end for strong female characters. Although many of them hung on through the early '50s, the *apres*-war, back-to-the-kitchen movement and the McCarthy-era Wertham witch-hunts killed them off.

Since maybe the mid-'70s (partly due to underground comics), the image of strong women in comics has been slowly picking up.

Of course, the original *Wonder Woman* is female supremacist. (The current one isn't.) So is *Little Lulu*. That's why girls like both those comics so much.

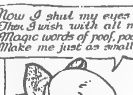
How could I have forgotten Tarpe Mills? Beautiful drawing, a terrific fashion sense, an utterly *film noire* comic — all written and drawn by a woman right out of Fiction House — by all reports, beautiful, talented, and totally in command.


You're outnumbered this time Dragonel— surrender!
Never!
Let me clout her one!
Oof! I tripped!
© 1949 Bakers Associates, Inc.
Hold them off, Dragonel — the Fox is headed for an animal path through the underbrush.
It's a low, narrow tunnel of brambles — the Hornets can't fly inside it.
© 1949 Bakers Associates, Inc.

Some female role models for young readers in the '40s and '50s were memorable and fun.

Walt Kelly, who became famous for the political satire in **Pogo**, *did adventure stories in comic books aimed at the youngest comic-book readers. Even the quickly done work he did for a promotional series for a bread company featured non-chauvinistic action.*

His "Dragonel" character (above seen as a villain in ***The Adventures of Peter Wheat*** *#2 and an ally by #14) was the swashbuckling Queen of the Hornets who first fought but later joined The Little Folk of the Wheat Field.*


Now I shut my eyes real tight. Then I wish with all my might. Magic words of poof, pool, puffles. Make me just as small as Snuffles!
© 1952 Warner Bros. Cartoons, Inc.

For the ***Our Gang*** *stories he did, Kelly quickly took the established MGM characters and went beyond the movies. In* ***Our Gang*** *#19 (Sept-Oct 1945) (below right), Janet grew angry when the boys left her out of an adventure, ordered Two by Two to trim her hair with hedge clippers, and caught the villains.*

Mary Jane (center) is recalled fondly today as the heroine of a back-up-strip series in ***Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies Comics****. (Originally, she grew small by tossing sand over herself, but that was changed — doubtless, at parents' requests.)*

John Stanley's classic comic-book version of Marge's ***Little Lulu*** *(lower left) coped with the battle of the sexes from the very first.*

HI, TUBBY! WHATCHA DOING?
CANCHA SEE? I'M MAKING A MODEL AIRPLANE
WHAT FOR?
I'M GONNA ENTER IT IN THE MODEL AIRPLANE CONTEST I'LL BE HAVING AT GREEN ACRES NEXT SUNDAY. I'M GONNA WIN IT'S FIRST PRIZE
ARE THERE GONNA BE OTHER AIRPLANES IN IT?
HEY! LET THAT ALONE!
WHAT'S THIS PART FOR?
IT'S A FLIG-ER-A FLE
FUSELAGE?
ER, YEH — IT ALSO IS
MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU MAKE IT
WHAT? ARE YOU KIDDIN'? HA HA HA HA-HA!
SURE, CAN'T MAKE NOTHIN' BUT FUDGE!
OH, YEH?
HOW ABOUT WHAM OR ARC AN MASHIE CURVE?
WELL, MAYBE THEY COULD MAKE A MODEL AIRPLANE
© 1946 Marjorie H. Buell

WOOP—I TRIPPED!
LOOKOUT! YOU'LL GET YOUR HEAD CUT OFF!
WOW! WHERE'D HE COME FROM?
KRACK!
BONK!
WOMP! THAT WALLS BEEN KNOCKED LOOSE—IT'S COMIN' DOWN!
HERE'S YOUR TURKEYS, BOYS!
THAT'S GREAT WORK JANE!
JANET?
SURE JANET! YOU WERE LICKED BY A GIRL YOU CREAM PUFFS! ATTABOY TWO BY TWO, GIVE THOSE GUYS A TRIMMIN'!
© 1945 Loew's Incorporated

Heidi MacDonald
(Columnist for the comics fan press)

It seems to me that female characters in comics fall into three categories.

The first is the **house heroines** — you know, the girlfriends. The ones who always have to be rescued. The one who always act so stupid. The ones who always leave me mentally screaming, "Why doesn't she *do* something?"

The Lois Lanes and early Marvel superheroines fall into this category and are a simple reflection of the basic stereotype of the helpless female.

Then there are the **inflatable rubber dolls**, women in the work of Wally Wood, Richard Corben, Dave Stevens, and — on a somewhat different level — Robert Crumb. This is a long list, and I've probably forgotten most of the artists who belong on it because their work bores me so much.

These women are dehumanized symbols or reflections of the artist's fantasies (which are sometimes beautifully drawn). The inflatable rubber dolls range from harmless wish-fulfillment figures to expressions of deepseated misogyny.

Finally, there are those rare women who are just **good characters**, with personalities and motivations, who exemplify the element of courage that we expect in all heroes.

It seems as though female characters in "kiddie" books have a greater share of equality than in the older adventure-type books. I'm thinking of Little Lulu, of course, but also Wendy (in *Casper*); April, May, and June (in Daisy Duck stories); and Betty and Veronica. Maybe equality is the wrong word. At least these characters are on an equal fictional footing with their male counterparts.

Adventure comics in this country are so thoroughly grounded in the world of adolescent male fantasies that I don't think there have ever been comics outside of the underground which have been created for adult women. There have never been romance comics for adult women. So in all those super-hero comics, and the super-hero comics disguised as something else, the women are most commonly presented from a boy's point of view and rarely from a mature one.

When I think of good female characters in comics, the names of two cartoonists leap up every single time: Milton Caniff and Will Eisner. They both realized that female characters who posed real challenges to their heroes were far more interesting than wimps and pin-ups. (Of course, Caniff and Eisner both drew very sexy women, but with a respect or a humanistic element.)

CRYSTAL GAYLE MARAKOVA
The daughter of Soviet diplomats to the U.S.A. – they named her after an American pop singer – Commander Marakova pilots the Raymond Loewy Designer Liner," an ultra-sophisticated rapparin.
As an employee of Four World Industries – as well as the daughter of a man who now owns half of Venezuela – Marakova's alliance with Flagg apparently furthers her own interests.
© 1984 Pinot Comics, Inc. & Howard Chaykin, Inc.

*Chaykin's Crystal Gayle Marakova was featured on a poster page in **American Flagg!** #16. The simple design does not fully convey the complex world — or the complex comic-book work — found in the title.*

Howard Chaykin,
*creator of **American Flagg!***

[In the wild world of the future Chaykin presents in his comic book, women tend to be dressed in revealing outfits with net stockings and spike-heeled shoes. He has received some criticism for this, but the male hero of the strip also wears high heels. In the course of a phone conversation, he made the following observations.]

Flagg wears high heels because they're cowboy boots, and the costume design that I came up with for Flagg I've described as what Giorgio Armani would've done for Ike, if he'd asked him to redesign the Ike jacket. I mean that.

[Why don't your female characters wear pantyhose?]

I *hate* pantyhose! I'm 34 years old! To hell with it! The best you can do with pantyhose is find Siamese twins to hold up a liquor store. *[He paused for a moment to consider.]* That wasn't bad! Why doesn't it work this fast when I'm sitting at the board?

We get a lot of mail from women, some of whom seem sort of marginally hostile. I wonder, if they're that hostile, why they're bothering to attack a guy who's doing a comic book that comes out once a month. I could conceivably see far more interesting and vital places to vent your spleen.

Most of the mail, however, is very positive, because those letters seem to recognize the fact that I'm dealing with a technocratic society where my hero functions as my voice — i.e., a technical illiterate — and is surrounded by far more technically potent people, most of whom happen to be women.

That's the way *my* life has always been. I'm good at light bulbs.

My wife is the model for Crystal Gayle Marakova. The reasons for it are very simply that the character was originally designed to look like Carole Lombard and be an ash blonde. And [my wife and colorist] Leslie pointed out when I was introducing the character that there were a lot of fair-haired, fair-colored women in the book. There were redheads and blondes and there weren't any brunettes.

"I said, "You're right." So I ended up using her. And, of course, people come along and assume that, not only is she the model for the character, she *is* the character.

And she's constantly alternately amused and weirded out being told by people, sort of in a confidential tone, that they hope that Flagg goes for her, as opposed to Mandy.

Women as They Produce Comics

By Will Eisner

More males read comics than do females! Historically, more men create comics than do females.

This point does not deserve an anthropological discussion or deep psychological analysis here. But it does say something about why there is still a large amount of male chauvinism in comics.

Early women cartoonists, like Rose O'Neill (*Kewpies*) produced for women readers. But their work was purchased for the newspapers by male editors who wanted an art style that was overtly feminine. After all, the strip or illustration was meant for the women's page of the magazine or newspaper. The art style (the eyelashes and hair-do) of Brenda Starr by Dale Messick was unquestionably feminine. The newspaper was out to attract female readers . . . or at least to satisfy what the male editor perceived as their "taste."

Early comic books were, in the main, produced by men. In my shop, c. 1938, we hired Toni Blum to write scripts for the likes of staffers like Jack Kirby and Lou Fine. Indeed, after a while she was responsible for a large part of that shop's super-hero output.

It was a male (me) who devised Sheena Queen of the Jungle. I was not making a social statement. I was responding to the winds of change. There were Tarzan and Superman and there was a war coming on in Europe with women participating as soldiers (WACS) and the communist mystique about the equality of women at all levels. Introducing female heroes was more visionary than revolutionary. The appearance of super-females like Wonder Woman were now fully acceptable in comic books. I added Lady Luck to the *Spirit Section* . . . but she was, nevertheless, written and drawn by Klaus Nordling and she did the things that male heroes do.

Ruth Roche wrote male adventure material at Eisner & Iger before and after I left. I believe (if memory serves me) she did write *Flamingo*, a female hero, but that was a minority of the output. But she wrote; she did not draw.

The point, here, is that when cartoonists write and draw it is very hard for them to keep feeling and personality at bay. Their work invariably refects their gender.

I offer my own output as evidence of the gender orientation in the production of a comic. For example, all the lady villains I produced in *The Spirit* (P'gell, Thorn Strand, Skinny Bones, Autumn Mews, Sand Saref, etc.) were male-oriented. Only Sand Saref ever received any fan-mail from female readers. The others, I realise now, were figments of my gender, whereas in Sand Saref I was sympathetic — trying genuinely to write her from *her* point of view.

© 1985 Will Eisner

*Will Eisner is one of the true giants of the comic-book industry. His work has ranged from instructional manuals to portfolios of his art. He is best known to comics fans for his **Spirit** stories, which began in June 1940. They appeared with Sunday newspapers for years and are collectors' items today. Dealers charge as much as $500 for the supplement containing the first one, though it was only gradually that the stories developed into classics of comic-book storytelling. They are available today in reprint form through Kitchen Sink's comics.*

Trina Robbins commented that the only male characters whose adventures she read were those of Captain Marvel (which she stayed with for the art and humor) and The Spirit — "obviously, 'cause his female characters were so strong."

© 1940 Everett M. Arnold

By Trina Robbins

Why is everybody afraid to say that they like women better or that women *are* better or that (in my case) I'm doing my comics for me, and therefore for women, because I *am* a woman? Every woman in comics but me insists that she's aiming her comics at both women *and* men. I'm the only one who is proud that she's aiming for females.

Trina Robbins (left) poses with Deni Loubert. Loubert is the former publisher of Aardvark-Vanaheim's comics and she will soon be the publisher of Renegade Press.

(Of course, unlike Tubby's clubhouse, men *are* allowed, if they so choose.)

There are so many comics by and for boys, what the hell is wrong with a few just for girls?

Why are so many women apologetic about things that are just for girls?

Ramona Fradon told me that drawing super-heroes in exaggerated-perspective fight scenes was torture for her, although the male cartoonists seemed to love drawing that stuff, and that she was much happier drawing *Brenda Starr* because of all the close-ups and expressions she could put in.

Wendy Pini

I think that the way *women* are representing women in comics is in large part influenced by how men are representing them, simply because they can't get the work, if the work is too individualistic and not something that those who are hiring them can identify with.

A nice thing that's happening right now with *Red Sonja* is that it's being written by Weezie Simonson and it's being drawn by Mary Wilshire. Mary has certain feminine traits to her style. She is also putting her own individuality into her style, and yet, at the same time, it conforms enough to a more traditional silhouette of the female that I think more traditionally-minded males could respond to it without feeling threatened or respond, "What? This is too different! I don't understand this!" But Mary manages to sneak in a lot of her own individuality.

When I began working on *Elfquest*, there was hostility and resistance to the design of the characters, because people thought it was too cute. And the females were thought, even by some women, to be caricatures of females that are *too* feminine and *too* cute and pretty and curly and whatnot to be taken seriously. But I insisted on the patience of my audience to see what I was trying, so that they would see what I was trying to develop here and that I was dealing with those very cliche symbols for a reason — basically, to explode them later on!

Women are often taught to be intuitive. Their intuitive powers are encouraged. And that's why they can write sensitive male characters, sort of get inside them, whereas men very often seem to be afraid to get inside of their characters and prefer to go along with this stereotypical behavior. With more and more women breaking in, they do, in a sense, have to become mentally male in order to compete and to hold their own.

When I'm on a panel with Richard, I haul out [my *Elfquest* character] Kahvi and [Marvel's] Red Sonja in order to keep up with him, because he's extremely witty, and also the audience tends to gravitate to him automatically because they're *used* to seeing males on panels and not females.

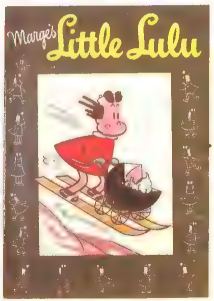
I've often wondered how much legitimacy I would have if I wasn't connected with Richard. And this is something that Richard and I have talked about and fretted over and, now that *Elfquest* is done, I'm faced with the possibility. I'm already getting a "Well, what have you done for us lately?" kind of thing from the fans. I'm a has-been already because *Elfquest* #20 has come out. I'm wondering how they are going to respond to me, if I want to do something on my own — say, a project for DC or something for Epic or an independent comic with which Richard isn't really connected, except in the sense of publishing. Maybe he won't even be my editor. Will they accept that, or will they insist on the team?

Richard is looking forward and hoping that I will be able to thoroughly establish my own identity and my own credentials apart from him. And I really appreciate his support in that. But I'm wondering if the world out there is going to let me.

Mary Wilshire, Marvel's artist on Red Sonja

Dann Thomas, comic-book scripter, was forbidden to buy comics when she was a child. She commented that Roy, her husband, had as comics favorites when young the short heroes — The Atom and Dollman, "probably because he was the shortest boy in his class. But with which heroines can unattractive girls identify? Chocolate-cheeked Etta Candy? Not likely!"

© 1951 Cornell Publishing Corp



© 1946 Marjorie H. Buell

© 1964 National Periodical Publications, Inc

What Do Women Think of Comics?

Betsy Curtis, *science-fiction author*

At a comic-con in New York City some years ago, I interviewed every female I could get hold of on the subject of why they were at the con at all and what their connection was with comics.

In the majority were mothers of small-boy afficionados, girl-friends and wives of boys and men who read and collected comics, and a few sisters of boys.

Oh, there was a tiny minority of girls who bought and read comics. However, as far as the younger women (younger than the mothers, that is) were concerned, their explanation of why they had *not* read comics was primarily economic: Brothers' allowances were not mortgaged by the requirement that they buy their own clothing, etc. The girls had been expected to buy not only clothes but also make-up, hair-dressing, and other female-peer purchases.

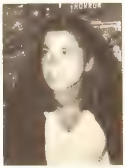
There was also, in the few cases in which I remembered to ask, a certain type of social pressure: Boys were much freer to *go* to the stores where comics were sold (often at some distance from home) than girls were.

A number of years ago, I tried to get some response from literate women on their experiences with and responses to comics. (In this case, the women involved were members of the a nearby college's women's association. Most of them were between, say, 35 and 70.)

I got *no place*!

As I recall, about five out of 40 responded, and I really got laid out by one who was connected with an area library. *Comics, indeed!*

Ann Nocenti, Marvel's Star Wars editor



Women as They Read Comics

By Will Eisner

This is almost impossible for me to report on. I've seen women at wrestling and boxing matches and often wondered what they were doing there. I have more questions than answers here.

How do women respond to the struggle between two mutants for the control of the galaxy and the beautiful woman in a rhinestone bikini? How do girls (if they do) read *Thor* or *Conan* or even *Peter Parker the Spectacular Spider-Man*?

Gosh, are they really turned on by the glandular people of Frazetta and Corben? Is it, maybe, the well-endowed men? How about the story? Most stories still employ women as creatures to be saved, do they not?

Then, too, I wonder how the girl readers react to the oft-done plot in which the beautiful alien woman turns into a heinous, reeking skeleton or space insect during copulation with the male hero.

But, then, look at the success of *Wonder Woman*. If this is designed to provide a fantasy-identification for girl readers, are we not perpetuating the "equal-but-separate" rule?

But, honestly, I'm getting in over my head.

© 1985 Will Eisner

John Byrne,
Marvel Comics editor

It seems like about 80% of my audience is feminine, but only about 40% of it is female. *[Chuckles]* There seems to be a fairly large female audience, but I wouldn't be prepared to put a number on it. I think I could probably say about 30% or 40% without being too far off the mark. Just based on the mail, I get a lot of letters from female readers.

The thrust of the mail seems to be that they are more interested in the characterization — that they pick up on more subtle things that I do.

If I drop hints as to, say, Northstar's sexual preferences, the female writers are the first to get it. Then, several months later, mail from the male readers will trickle in saying, "Is he gay?"

Yes! He is!

Jo Duffy, Marvel's ***Star Wars*** *writer and assistant editor of the Epic line*

Wonder Woman first appeared in a two-part story which began in *All Star Comics* #8 and ended in *Sensation Comics* #1. The cost of buying the pair in near-mint condition today would be about $2000.

Some of DC's Heroines

Left to Right:
Hawkgirl
The Thorn
Tina
Zatanna the Magician
Big Barda
Beautiful Dreamer
Star Sapphire
Liberty Belle
Lilith
Wonder Girl
Merry, Girl of 1000 Gimmicks
The Enchantress
Dumb Bunny
The Phantom Lady
The Cheetah
The Harlequin
Batgirl
The Black Canary
Wonder Woman
not to mention
Supergirl (right)

Obviously, these 10 pages have only begun to look at the subject. ***Comics Collector*** has in its files many more views of the topic, and none of them will be lost. Some will be used in our sister publication, ***The Comics Buyer's Guide.*** Wendy Pini's additional discussions of her life, her work, and her fans will be printed in an upcoming issue of ***Comics Collector.***

Many contributors cited favorite female comics characters: Jo Duffy says, "These days, at least, it is Lum from Rumiko Takahashi's *Uruseiyatsura (Those Noisy, Annoying Aliens).* She is a little alien girl who goes to an Earth high school and deals with make-out artists." Betsy Curtis' favorite is Little Lulu, but she also likes Bonnie *(of Trots and Bonnie)* and Little Annie Fanny. Roger Stern's favorite is "Captain Marvel, because I came up with her." Heidi MacDonald says it's a toss-up between Little Lulu and Maggie Chascarillo *(of Love and Rockets).*

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The monsters shall RISE

By Lou Mougin

The monsters rose.

They rose from an unplumbed swamp in Florida, from castles in Transylvania, from 100-year-old ice blocks.

They broke free of Egyptian caskets three millenia ago.

They came from the modern wizard's den, a scientific laboratory.

They stepped whole from paintings.

They were changed by strange stones.

They inherited a curse and bared fangs at the moon.

They stood 100 feet high and swatted down airplanes.

They had only one thing in common.

They were the Marvel monsters of the '70s.

They began their rising with the emergence of *Man-Thing* in 1971 and went to an uneasy rest 10 years later, when *The Tomb of Dracula* was nailed shut with a silver spike. But the undead never *really* die.

The monsters were many, and they assaulted mankind from new battlements — fully a third of Marvel's comics during the middle '70s, almost all of its black-and-white magazine line. Their jerry-built lairs included *The Frankenstein Monster, Supernatural Thrillers, Tomb of Dracula, Adventure into Fear, Man-Thing, Marvel Chillers, Haunt of Horror, Dead of Night, Creatures on the Loose, Strange Tales, Monsters Unleashed, Werewolf by Night, Vampire Tales, Tales of the Zombie, Masters of Terror, Supernatural Thrillers, Dracula Lives!, The Legion of Monsters, Godzilla*, several giant-sized and annual incarnations of the above, fringe titles like *Marvel Spotlight, Son of Satan*, and *Ghost Rider* — and about a dozen catch-all horror titles that started out with original stories and ended up fielding limpwristed weirdies from early '50s horror comics.

We got monsters by the carload. Every month Marvel served us three bushel baskets of them on comics and magazine racks. They seemed to multiply like Shmoos on overtime. And, predictably, the public sickened of them — especially when many of them couldn't cut the mustard, as far as quality was concerned. Then Marvel staked them, shot them with silver bullets, blasted their electrodes with lightning, drained their swamps, unwrapped their bandages and denied them tanna leaves, exorcised them, and left their webbed feet flipping in the Sahara. It was the old expansion and contraction game, and the monsters had played it and lost.

What opened the tombs in the first place?

Most of it was due to the liberalization of the Comics Code in 1971. The Comics Code Authority had been born in 1954, in reaction against the horror and crime comics of 1947-1954 (see "Spine-Chilling Tales of Horror and Suspense!" by Lawrence Watt-Evans, *CC* #3) as much as anything else. Code guidelines required virtual elimination of gory monster comics — and finished off a small horde of publishers whose livelihood depended on such titles. The remaining publishers featured milder monsters with almost no connection with the supernatural. They were merely foul-ups of the new demon, radiation — or of some boneheaded scientist's uncontrolled experiment.

By 1971, however, the Code Authority liberalized its restrictions, though still forbidding "walking dead" (though, perhaps because of their status as classics, the Frankenstein monster and Dracula could be depicted).

Marvel got around that restriction by using voodoo-monsters and declaring them "zuvembies." In this guise, such monsters even got into the pages of *The Avengers*.

Marvel was expansionist in 1971. Before the '70s, its output had still been limited to a handful of titles, most of them super-hero. But by 1972, Stan Lee had replaced Martin Goodman as publisher, and Roy Thomas had become editor.

The Marvel line mushroomed without restriction. A branch of barbarian comics, most firmly hooked into *Conan*, was added. Pulp heroes were tried. A few new war and western and humor comics began, along with a triad of showcase comics. And new superheroes popped out of the woodwork every other month: Luke Cage, Killraven, Deathlok, and Warlock.

In all of this, the fact that Roy Thomas managed to maintain some quality in all the titles stands as tribute to his ability. They broke new ground and introduced a new and talented crew to comic books: Steve Englehart, Steve Gerber, Craig Russell, Don McGregor, and Paul Gulacy among them. Some of their work may have been mediocre, but a lot of it was good, and some of it was of a nature to fire fans' imaginations.

Marvel's monster books had about the same ratio of quality to quantity as their sister genres. A few were composed of dreamstuff; these were the ones Steve Gerber and Marv Wolfman cut their teeth on. Others, the foot-soldiers of the battle, did the best they could. If they had engaging characters, they survived — or even briefly prospered. Then came the casualties, who suffered a one-shot, a two-shot, or an agonizing year before collapsing.

Whatever the case, Marvel's monsters kept a lot of writers and artists fed. Taking a look at them, the first stop is that famous swamp in Citrusville where it all began. The time is 1971; the place is *Savage Tales* #1.

A striking Gray Morrow picture of a gigantic, man-like, slime-dripping creature festooned with beady eyes and carrot nose, like a grotesque parody of a snowman, was ripping apart the jaws of a large alligator.

Man-Thing had virtually no intelligence beyond blind emotional empathy, was more a parody of a man than a rep-

They began their rising with the emergence of "Man-Thing" in 1971 and went to an uneasy rest 10 years later, when "The Tomb of Dracula" was nailed shut with a silver spike. But the undead never really die.

Marvel's monster books had about the same ratio of quality to quantity as their sister genres. A few were composed of dreamstuff; these were the ones Steve Gerber and Marv Wolfman cut their teeth on. Others, the foot-soldiers of the battle, did the best they could. If they had engaging characters, they survived — or even briefly prospered. Then came the casualties, who suffered a one-shot, a two-shot, or an agonizing year before collapsing.

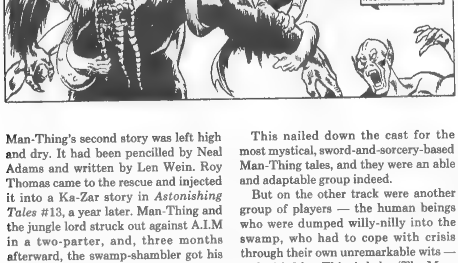
Whatever the case, Marvel's monsters kept a lot of writers and artists fed. Taking a look at them, the first stop is that famous swamp in Citrusville where it all began. The time is 1971; the place is *Savage Tales* #1.

A striking Gray Morrow picture of a gigantic, man-like, slime-dripping creature festooned with beady eyes and carrot nose, like a grotesque parody of a snowman, was ripping apart the jaws of a large alligator.

Man-Thing had virtually no intelligence beyond blind emotional empathy, was more a parody of a man than a rep-

True enough, Morbius drank blood to survive, flew on wing-like glider membranes under his arms, and had the strength of many men. But that was all he held in common with vampire lore.

In ***The Man-Thing*** *#1 featured Korrek of Katharta and Howard the Duck. Howard became increasingly popular, starring in solo adventures and eventually getting his own comic book.*


WITH FANS AND BEAK, TALON AND TENTACLE—
--THEY POUNCE UPON THE SLIME-DWELLER--TEARING! SMASHING, CLAWING AT HIM--
--SLOWLY EATING AWAY AT THE MURKY, GIN-ELESH OF WHICH MAN-THING IS MADE!

MORE OF THEM SPRING FORWARD TO ATTACK! FOLLOW ME, DUCK— WE'LL WARD THEM OFF!
DON'T BE AN IDIOT, KORREK WE CAN'T FIGHT THIS!
© 1973 Marvel Comics Group

Man-Thing's second story was left high and dry. It had been pencilled by Neal Adams and written by Len Wein. Roy Thomas came to the rescue and injected it into a Ka-Zar story in *Astonishing Tales* #13, a year later. Man-Thing and the jungle lord struck out against A.I.M in a two-parter, and, three months afterward, the swamp-shambler got his own feature in the front half of a weird-tales comic called *Fear*. Once again, Gerry Conway and Gray Morrow handled the story.

Then came Steve Gerber.

To start out, Gerber built a large and shifting road-company to accompany Man-Thing. First came Jennifer Kale (a teen-ager who became a sorceress) and her brother Andy — plus the demonic Thog who lurked behing the whole series as an over-menace. (He met his fate in the last issue, when readers found out that a demon, too, can know fear.)

There was Dakimh the Enchanter, the cone-hatted image of a medieval sorcerer and the ringleader of the whole show.

There was Korrek of Katharta, a barbarian prince who landed on Earth in a jar of peanut butter.

Finally, there was Howard the Duck, who phased into a world of hairless apes, phased right out, and eventually stole the show and supplanted his swampy cohort.

This nailed down the cast for the most mystical, sword-and-sorcery-based Man-Thing tales, and they were an able and adaptable group indeed.

But on the other track were another group of players — the human beings who were dumped willy-nilly into the swamp, who had to cope with crisis through their own unremarkable wits — and with Man-Thing's help. (The Man-Thing supposedly had no functioning mind, but *always* seemed to do the right thing to help.) These are the characters one remembers after reading the series: Richard Rory (the eternal loser who spearheaded a crusade); F. A. Schist (personification of every Big Business cliche, who threatened again and again to drain and develop the swamp and destroy The Man-Thing); Darrel Daniel (a pathetic circus clown whose ghost was forced to play out his life's drama in the swamp, with eternal judgment after the final curtain); Edmond Winshead (the class fat boy who died from alienation as much as from a teacher's abuse and for whom The Man-Thing enacted a terrible revenge).

Man-Thing stories were usually as moralistic as an old Rod Serling *Twilight Zone*. Gerber is a satirist and, as often as not, he misses or only wounds his targets these days in books like *Destroyer Duck*. But in *Man-Thing* he hit them dead-on.

It was easy to find the real monsters in Man-Thing's stories; they were the ones who looked like the guys next door.

The strip ran through the December 1973 issue of *Fear* and then graduated to its own comic. Five issues of a quarterly, *Giant-Size Man-Thing*, were included in the run. The comic ran for slightly less than two years. Gerber finished out the run, in #22, with a novel gimmick.

He'd popped up in various guises throughout the series; now, he made himself the central character. "Pop Goes the Cosmos!" opened with a splash page of Gerber writing a letter to editor Len Wein, telling him why he was dropping the Man-Thing series. He had just teamed up with the guardian of the swamp to destroy Thog himself, and that was as close as he wanted to get to super-heroism.

But Man-Thing refused to die.

Nobody would let him.

Other writers had injected Man-Thing into their comics (Steve Englehart in *Master of Kung Fu*, Len Wein and Gerry Conway in *Giant-Size Spider-Man*, Gerber himself in *Marvel Two-in-One*). Now that his book was cancelled, other writers gave the creature temporary lodgings in their own comics. He popped up alongside *The Incredible Hulk*, in a one-shot "Legion of Monsters" showcased in *Marvel Premiere*, with The Thing again in *MTiO*, and with Spider-Man in a well-done Claremont/Byrne issue of *Marvel Team-Up*.

Gerber himself disregarded his own dictum at the end of *Man-Thing* #22. About a year later he co-starred Man-Thing with Iron Man in *Iron Man Annual* #3 and in 1978 he scripted an all-new Man-Thing opus in *Rampaging Hulk* #7 with art by Jim Starlin. His final shot came in a *Howard the Duck* two-parter (#22-23), in a semi-humorous *Star-Wars* parody.

Then Gerber left Marvel, but Man-Thing stayed. Marvel scripters, fascinated by the character and its heritage, couldn't keep their hands off him.

Eventually, in 1979, a new *Man-Thing* series was begun. Michael Fleisher and Chris Claremont were the mentors this time around. But the series was cancelled with #11 in a story which hearkened back to issue #22 of the first series. Once more, Man-Thing returned to his role as guest-star, judging those who felt fear with his fiery grasp — in other heroes' comic books.

A mixed bag of artists had handled The Man-Thing in his own strip. One of the best was Mike Ploog, a Will Eisner protege who worked on just about every Marvel monster strip at one time or another. His uglies were truly ugly, his Man-Thing was the ultimate carrot-nosed interpretation. His swamp, impossibly, looked even wetter than the streets of Central City in *The Spirit*. Besides Ploog, some of the best artists were Val Mayerik (original co-creator of Howard the Duck), Jim Mooney, and John Buscema, who handled the swamp's share of the rest.

At present, the Man-Thing is one of the few Marvel monsters left with a semi-active career. (He appeared in *Marvel Two-in-One* the very month his second series was cancelled.) And Steve Gerber has recently resumed free-lancing for Marvel Comics. Will he return to his adopted swamp-child? There's no telling, but it seems certain that Man-Thing will survive, an impossible *deus ex machina* on an improbable stage.

In 1971, some months after Man-Thing's first appearance in *Savage Tales*, Marvel's second series-monster debuted on the cover of *Amazing Spider-Man* #101. He barged into the middle of the strange storyline which had Spidey beset with four extra arms (yes, you read that right). Smashing his adversary down a flight of stairs, the white-faced, black-costumed interloper snapped, *"Fool!* It will take more than a freak with *six arms* to defeat . . . a *vampire*!"

As the title advised us, the new character was "A Monster Called *Morbius*!"

Morbius was Marvel's first code-approved vampire, but he seemed a half-way measure, a fudging of the concept. He wasn't a *real* vampire, just a scientifically-created replica. He was something on the order of a hamburger with soy extender. True enough, Morbius drank blood to survive, flew on wing-like glider membranes under his arms, and had the strength of many men. But that was all he held in common with vampire lore. He owed his delicate condition not to a bite in the jugular but to scientific wizardry.

Spider-Man #102 told us, in the origin story by Roy Thomas and Gil Kane, that Michael Morbius had been a Nobel Prize-winning scientist who was wasting away from a rare blood disease. He sought a cure in fluids drained from vampire bats (heaven knows *why*), but found no help there.

As a last resort, in a sequence very similar to Dr. Doom's origin story, he strapped himself into a strange apparatus which sent jolts of energy through his anemic body. He emerged white-skinned, hollow-boned, sensitive to light, super-strong, and with two sharp canines and a lust for blood that (as one writer put it) "made heroin addiction seem like a child's craving for ice cream!"

STOP HIM! HE'S GETTIN' AWAY!
YOU STOP 'IM! HE MOVES LIKE A BLASTED STREAK OF LIGHTNIN'!
THE POOR, BLIND FOOLS.
IF THEY BUT KNEW HOW SLOW MY MOVEMENTS SEEM TO ME...

*In **The Amazing Spider-Man** #101, Michael Morbius fled his would-be attackers — sailors who had found him adrift in the middle of the ocean.*

MO! I MUST NOT THINK OF THAT THE MEMORIES WOULD DRIVE ME MAD.
IT WAS A DREAM IT HAD TO BE A DREAM..
BUT-- IT WAS NOT.
HE RAN DOWN THIS WAY
WE CAN'T PULL INTO PORT TILL WE FIND THAT CREEP-- OR WE'LL ESCAPE.
IF ONLY I DARED GIVE MYSELF UP.
BUT MY WILL IS TOO WEAK.. TOO WEAK.
...OR NOW HEAVY, HOW LEADEN MY LIMBS../
AH, BUT WHEN IT GETS DARK.. WHEN IT'S NIGHT.. A NIGHT LIKE LAST NIGHT...
FOR, THAT NIGHT, BENEATH THE MOON'S EERIE, WHITISH GLOW...
I AM ALMOST AS GREAT A FOOL AS THEY.
TO EASE A MOMENT'S ANGUISH, I NEARLY SURRENDERED MYSELF TO THEIR TENDER MERCIES.

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He needed hemoglobin to survive and, minutes after his transformation, took it from the veins of his assistant.

Morbius was not by nature a murderer. He was an intellectual and an aesthete whose very soul rebelled against the actions his urge for survival forced him to take. Writers like Steve Gerber or Don McGregor played Morbius's morality against his lust and wound up with powerful conflict as the basis for their stories.

Each month readers wondered: How will Morbius be forced to put on the bite *this* time?

After his initial romp with Spider-Man and a two-issue stint in *Marvel Team-Up*, Morbius found himself a home. Marvel jumped feet-first into the horror-magazine field in 1973 with four black and white titles: *Monsters Unleashed*, *Dracula Lives!*, *Tales of the Zombie* — and *Vampire Tales*, starring Morbius.

Initially, his series was pretty good. Steve Gerber and Pablo Marcos handled the first episode and were supplanted by Don McGregor and Rick Buckler (later, Tom Sutton) for the second. Morbius's second team piloted him through a harrowing battle against the Demon-Fire cult which had undermined the politics of a small community.

He also found a new leading lady in the person of Amanda Saint, who offered him blood when he was caught short.

At times, the *Vampire Tales* Morbius was the grisliest Marvel series of all. A hapless victim got the top of his head blown off, as was depicted in gruesome detail. Amanda's father was lynched, and a full-face closeup view of his corpse dominated two full pages. Morbius had a loop of barbed wire wrapped around his neck and was dragged through the streets. But if you plowed ahead with it, as devoted horror fans will do when in the grip of a B-movie, you could appreciate it for McGregor's characterization and writing and disregard the overblown gore.

At least, I *think* you could.

Simultaneously, Morbius replaced Man-Thing in *Fear* and started out fairly well with Steve Gerber scripting him again. But the plot, pitting the scientist-vampire against an alien menace called The Caretakers, worked against the horror-based nature of the character himself.

Five issues later, Doug Moench took on scripting duties, eventually passing them to Bill Mantlo, assuming in their place the writing assignment of the *Vampire Tales* strip. Not much of the *Fear* strip is very memorable, nor are the post-McGregor *Vampire Tales* stories. *Fear* ground to a halt with #31, *Vampire Tales* with #11.

Morbius appeared in a handful of guest-shots (usually with his old nemesis Spider-Man) and an inventory story in *Marvel Preview* before being cured of his vampirism in a 1980 issue of *Peter Parker, the Spectacular Spider-Man*. He had to stand trial for multiple murder, but, since his attorney was the Savage She-Hulk herself, Morbius got off on grounds of insanity.

The third of Marvel's monstrous array came on early in 1972. He was the first to star in his own regularly-published series. He was, in Marvel's eyes, its first true monster-star. He stepped into the light of the full moon in *Marvel Spotlight* #2 and continued for an unbroken run unto 1977 — a record only one other Marvel shock-star would beat. He was, of course, *Werewolf By Night*.

Mike Ploog was the initial *Werewolf* artist, and his off-the-wall work makes his issues the ones really worth searching for. The first page of *Marvel Spotlight* #2 dripped Eisner-like atmosphere for two of its three panels, as a shadowed figure shambled through the rainy alleys of Los Angeles. A mugger with a knife approached the figure, only to find himself face-to-face with a bona fide werewolf.

WHEN, PETER PARKER MAKES HIS FIRST MISTAKE--WAITS A FATEFUL INSTANT FOR SOME SORT OF ANSWER--SOME VERBAL RESPONSE--
WHILE, INSTEAD--MORBIUS LEAPS!
AND THOSE TEETH--LIKE AN ANIMAL'S GLEAMING FANGS--
HE'S LIKE A CUSTOMIZED VERSION OF A VAMPIRE!
AW, GET OFF IT, WALL-CRAWLER--
"UNNHH!" HE'S THE STRONG, SILENT TYPE--WITH ACCENT ON THE STRONG.
BUT--HIS FACE--IT'S HIDEOUS--INHUMANLY WHITE--
HE'S PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER GARDEN-VARIETY SUPER-VILLAIN--
--OUT TO BUILD A FAST RAP BY BEATING UP ON SPIDER-MAN.
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Narration was in the first person: "The last thing I knew — I attacked — and bore the mugger down!" And that caption was followed by a litany hallowed to any kid who ever saw Larry Talbot run amok on the late-night Creature Feature:

Even a man who is pure of heart
And says his prayers by night
May become a wolf when the wolfbane blooms
And the moon is full and bright!

Werewolf By Night probably owed its inspiration to *I Was a Teenage Werewolf*, because that's precisely what Jack Russell, its hero, *was*. The inheritor of a centuries-old family curse, Jack was damned to become a lycanthrope every month during the three nights of the full moon, from his eighteenth birthday onward. Roy Thomas and his then-wife Jean had created the concept, with Gerry Conway signed on as the original scripter. (With Man-Thing, Dracula, and Werewolf to his credit, Conway ended up unleashing quite a burst of horror onto the Marvel universe.)

Jack Russell's consciousness was submerged below that of the beast during the nights of his affliction; he realized what the werewolf was doing but found himself powerless to control his actions. Somehow the werewolf never managed to kill anybody but the bad guys, though. It was much like the Bruce Banner/Hulk dichotomy in another title.

After a fairly good but cliched double-size premiere issue, Conway and Ploog guided their hirsute hero through two more issues of *Marvel Spotlight* and then into his own book. They remained together for four more stories, whereupon Len Wein took up the reins for a bit. Then the book went through a merry-go-round of writers and artists, including Werner Roth, Tom Sutton, Gil Kane, Conway again, Don Perlin, Mike Friedrich, and Marv Wolfman. Wolfman was the best of the lot, masterminding a Dracula/Werewolf crossover battle with Ploog and Colan. Finally, *Werewolf By Night* was taken over by Doug Moench and Don Perlin, who handled the snarling scourge of the night for his last 24 issues.

In the meantime, there was a two-part prose werewolf adventure in *Monsters Unleashed* written by Gerry Conway, a team-up with Spider-Man (required for most horror stars of that period), and five issues of *Giant-Size Werewolf by Night*. These last titles, guest-starring the likes of Tigra, the Frankenstein Monster, and Morbius, might as well have been called *Monster Team-Up*.

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There were sparks of quality in *Werewolf by Night* at times, and there was a winsome supporting character in Topaz, a sorceress. But most of the stories were as conventional as any Marvel superhero title of the time. The werewolf duked it out with super-villains, fought evil organizations with names like The Committee, and infrequently teamed up with super-heroes (Moon Knight, one of Marvel's more popular '80s heroes, was introduced in this book.) However, conventionality in his case was no sin. It kept him plugging away year after year, while his fearsome brothers were dropping like vampires at sunrise. *Werewolf by Night* was a super-hero in wolfskin, and super-heroes are what Marvel does best.

Still, by his final days the strain was showing, and Doug Moench attempted to make him a straight-out hero-figure, controlling his transformations and retaining his intelligence in wolf-form. It didn't help matters much. He was only able to field a two-issue team-up with Iron Man before going under. Occasionally the Werewolf shows up as a guest-star in super-hero comics (*Spider-Woman, Ghost Rider, Marvel Team-Up*) but for the most part he's returned to the shadows.

In Part II, next issue, we'll take a look at Marvel's Dracula, Lilith, Frankenstein monster, zombies — and a horde of other creeping things.

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WHO'S IN COMICS? DOCTOR WHO!

By Eric L. Hoffman

Nobody gave it much of a chance for survival.

Nobody, according to available data, except (to an extent) its producer, its creators, and its original star. (And even they could hardly have imagined that an educational science-fiction show would eventually produce American comic books.)

Who's The Doctor?

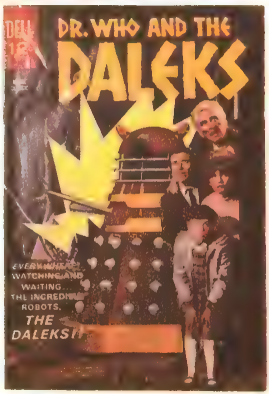
The Doctor is not human. He is not of our world. He is not of our time — or, really, *any* time.

He is a self-styled "wanderer in the fourth dimension." He is something of a renegade of his people, the Time Lords of the planet Gallifrey. The Time Lords long ago opted to follow a doctrine of non-interference with other worlds and times, though they had the power to travel through space and time in vehicles which changed appearance so as to blend with their surroundings.

The Doctor's vehicle doesn't always work properly. It got stuck in the shape of a London police call box of the early '60s. And it never seems to take him to places of peace and ordered calm, either.

He and his companions, no matter where they intend to travel, invariably end up in the thick of things — from murder mysteries to revolutions to invasions to robots gone wrong.

In the movie for which the comic book to the right was printed, the Doctor was portrayed as an eccentric Earth scientist. As fans of the TV show know, the *real* Doctor is more than 700 years old, has two hearts and a respiratory bypass system, and has regenerated his body five times. And that's only part of the story!



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An anonymous executive in the upper levels of the BBC reportedly said, "I can only predict disaster. There is no chance that a program built around the adventures of an old man careening about the universe in a police box can last more than 13 weeks."

William Hartnell, the series' original star, was hesitant at first about becoming involved with what seemed at the time to be nothing more than "a children's show."

Yet, after being told its premise, not only was he hooked on the fledgling series (one factor probably being that it gave him a role different from the "hard-boiled" types he had been associated with for several years) but he also became one of its most enthusiastic boosters, openly declaring in interviews, "I predict that it will run for five years!"

On its opening night, November 23, 1963, the new program faced the possibility of ending before it properly began. It premiered in the immediate wake of the world-shocking assassination of President Kennedy.

The show's opening episode was repeated the following week, to allow viewers who missed it a second chance.

It may be *Doctor Who*, more than *Star Trek*, that deserves the title "The Show That Wouldn't Die."

Now, as it passes its 21st anniversary on BBC-1, *Doctor Who* has those who predicted its demise even before its 13th week shaking their heads, wondering where they could have misjudged the show or its audience.

Over the years *Doctor Who* has whisked millions of viewers through time and space and demonstrated its durability time and again. To date, the known number of stories in the series has reached 136, with each story consisting of varying numbers of episodes. The shortest story lasted one episode ("Mission to the Unknown," broadcast Oct. 9, 1965); the largest ran a whopping 12 episodes ("The Dalek Master Plan," broadcast Nov. 13, 1965 through Jan. 29, 1966).

With all this under its belt and the fact that it has reached its "coming-of-age" year, *Doctor Who* holds the distinction of being the *longest-running* SF/fantasy prime-time series in the history of television.

Period.

Sorry, Trekkies.

(For that matter, it's possible that *Doctor Who* is the longest-running prime-time dramatic series in the history of television. Period.)

During its 21 years of existence, *Doctor Who* has been incarnated in various media, from records (the series' distinctive theme has turned up on 45 rpm records and lp records — and there has even been a disco version) to videotape to the printed word (in novelizations from the Target Books division of W.H. Allen Publications) to comic books from Marvel in England and the U.S.

Born in the fertile mind of Sydney Newman (who had come to the BBC from ITV), the new head of drama, and Donald Wilson, head of the BBC's Series and Serials department, *Doctor Who* was the result of a necessity to create a new show for Saturday afternoons. Needless to say to anybody aware of the series, the show went against all the usual rules for an SF-oriented series of that day dealing with a time-and-space-hopping hero. Instead of the usual Flash Gordon clone, the series' "hero" began his existence as a crochety old man who appeared to be in his 60's or early 70's (in reality, it would eventually be revealed, he was around 745 years old — give or take a few decades).

His dress style leaned towards the Edwardian; his temperament was crochety, slightly arrogant; and his nature included, besides an unexpected sense of humor and a highly visible ego, a highly developed dislike for oppression, evil, and fools.

Instead of the usual super-gimmicked spaceship, the old man's time-and-space "ship" looked like an old blue police box, a fairly common sight at the time of the series' birth. Today, the emergency call box is virtually extinct in England — but *Doctor Who*'s police box has almost become the symbol of the series. (Actually, the machine was supposed to change its shape to blend with its surroundings — but, according to the storyline, the chameleon circuit broke in the first adventure, and the ship has been stuck in its shape ever since.) The inside of the craft was, as fans know, a far cry from the tiny confines of its exterior shape. Thanks to being dimensionally transcendental, the ship, known as the TARDIS (short for Time And Relative Dimensions In Space), was "bigger on the inside than the outside." To date, the ship's seemingly unlimited world (of corridors, rooms, and whatever spare dimensions are on hand) has yet to be completely explored — even by its master!

Just how much of a symbol the old, blue police box had become in connection with *Doctor Who* was brought home when the possibility was expressed by the BBC and the show's producer, John Nathan-Turner, of doing away with the police-box form. The result was overwhelmingly hostile reaction from the show's fans around the world — in the form of letters and other feedback. Announcements were quickly made on BBC-1 and in other media that the police box would remain a police box — at least on the outside.

When Verity Lambert, the series' original producer (in charge of film production for Thorn-EMI at last report) began the task of bringing *Doctor Who* to life, she managed to pull off the virtually impossible, getting props made, stories written (in tandem with David Whitaker, the series' first script editor), talking actors into working for fees that were sometimes less than scale — in short, just about getting the whole enterprise together — all, according to the legend, with a starting budget of only £2,000 per episode! (At the time, that came to somewhere between $4,000 and $5,000 per episode — try getting five seconds of commercial air for that amount of money today.)

Somehow, the amazing Miss Lambert managed to pull it off, topping everything off with her selection of the performer to portray the show's "hero," the Doctor. In signing William Hartnell for the part, she initiated a legend.

One of the key elements that has helped *Doctor Who* to continue life over its remarkable span has been the element of change — especially in the area of its title character. By the time the first three years of the show were drawing to a close, William Hartnell's health, due to the onset of multiple sclerosis, made it clear that he would be leaving the series.

Usually, when the central character of a series has to leave a series, that series will come to an end. Such was the feeling at first with *Doctor Who*, at least from some of the upstairs echelon of the BBC. However, those officials changed their minds. In keeping with its unusual premise, *Doctor Who* got a new lease on life, thanks to writers Gerry Davis (who happened to be the series' script editor at the time) and Dr. Kit Pedler. Their contribution (besides one of the show's most popular alien nasties, the Cybermen) was the ability of the Doctor (and, as we later learned, his people) to regenerate his old, worn-out body into a new, healthy one with a totally different appearance, personality, and frame of mind.

With this development (which occurred after the first two stories in

Doctor Who's fourth season), the way was paved for a succession of actors to portray the Doctor in a variety of ways: William Hartnell as the enigmatic, crochety old man; Patrick Troughton as the whimsical "cosmic hobo"; Jon Pertwee as the elegant, dashing man of action; Tom Baker as the eccentric lunatic with the incredibly long scarf; Peter Davison as the more "normal," gentler, slightly unsure-of-himself-at-times Doctor with a passion for cricket; and, most recently, Colin Baker's new Doctor — whose character has yet to be totally revealed but whose individuality is obvious, especially in the by-now infamous "truly tasteless" costume, which has inspired reactions from the "Yuk!" of the Doctor's latest companion to fan responses ranging from "it looks like an explosion at a Salvation Army Thrift Store" to "it looks like a peacock threw up on it!"

Another element of change that has added to the enjoyment of *Doctor Who* has been that of the Doctor's companions in his adventure in time and space. At first, at least two companions traveled with the Doctor. Then, for a time, only one. Recently, the number vacillated between two and three (not counting a robot dog) and now is back to one. When the time comes for the producer of the series to phase out one character and bring in another (which can happen when a performer decides to leave the show), the right circumstances are usually devised in order to make such an exit possible. Only three companions (or semi-companions) have left the show via death (the most recent being that of Matthew Waterhouse's "Adric" in "Earthshock").

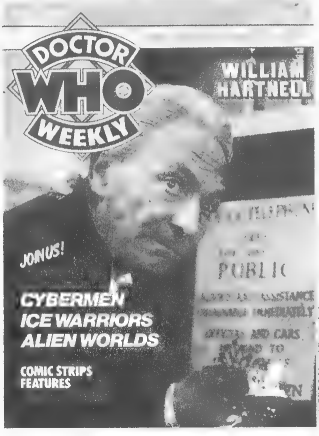
In its original conception, *Doctor Who* was to be a comparatively "historical" series. That is, the adventures of the Doctor and his companions would take them to eras in history in which they would become involved in events, interfering only if it seemed that history was off its known course. If a story was to have a science-fictional basis, or be set in the future, it would be based on scientific speculation. Monsters were not a firm part of the plan — at the beginning. But after an initial story that only drew a moderate viewing audience of about 4 million viewers, things changed with the next adventure: the seven-episode thriller written by Terry Nation, "The Daleks." (Fans also refer to it as "The Dead Planet," the title of the story's opening episode.) The story introduced an alien menace that not only became the most popular of the baddies to stalk (or, in this case, glide) across the show's sets, but it also sent the ratings soaring.

It also kept BBC switchboards clogged with calls from viewers who, after seeing only a portion of the story's "monster" at the climax of the first episode (a metal rod with a rubber suction cup at the end, like a malignant plumber's helper, menacing heroine Jacqueline Hill), demanded "*What is that thing?*"

Described by some as "mobile pepper-pots," the Daleks trundled onto TV screens with an ego as big as the universe, a hostility to other life forms, and a war cry of "*Exterminate!*" — and sent the British public into a wave of "Dalek-mania," with more than 150 items of Dalek-licensed merchandise being manufactured, along with many reappearances on *Doctor Who*.

With the introduction of the Daleks, and their immediate success, the course of *Doctor Who* was changed. Historical stories took a back seat to the fantastic elements, gradually disappearing altogether for some years. The way was opened for an assortment of alien beings — friendly or, more frequently, hostile — to stalk, slink, shamble, and/or lurch across the TV screen with appearances ranging from the totally unearthly to the comparatively humanoid.

From the robot-like Cybermen to reptilian aliens called Terrileptiles to the bizarre concept of the "Mara," the num-



ber of wild villains has proven to be a prime factor in *Doctor Who*'s popularity.

Today's fans can keep track of some of the more than two decades' worth of stories with the British Target Books *Who* novels. Authors for the series include writers and former *Who* script editors, such as Terrance Dicks and Gery Davis, as well as actor Ian Marter. The books serve not only as enjoyable light SF/fantasy reading but also as a way for new fans to follow the adventures of Doctors they have never seen. (The Hartnell and Troughton programs have never been televised in America, and a few of Jon Pertwee's adventures are only now being reissued in America after an abortive Time-Life syndication in the mid-'70s.)

As of this writing, 90 *Doctor Who* novels have been published by Target/W.H. Allen. This is, of course, not counting such offshoots as the *Doctor Who Monster Book*, *The Making of Doctor Who*, the two-volume reference work by Jean-Marc Lofficier *The Doctor Who Programme Guide*, and Peter Haining's recent *Doctor Who — A Celebration*, which commemorated the series' 20th anniversary.

Besides the Target Books, one of the best sources of information is Marvel Comics' British title *Doctor Who Monthly*. Beginning as a weekly with its first appearance in 1979, the publication turned monthly with #44 and has been going strong ever since. As I write, issue #93 has appeared in the U.S.

Filled with a combination of comic strips, summaries of past *Who* episodes (in many cases, courtesy of noted *Who* historian Jeremy Bentham), articles about the characters, actors, behind-the-scenes personnel, writers, and information about upcoming stories, *Doctor Who Monthly* has become an eagerly awaited item by *Who* fans in America.

Naturally, its main comic-book story features the Doctor in whatever form he takes in England at the time. But that is generally its only link-up with the series. Except for his remarkable time-and-spacecraft (as well as the presence of K-9 during some of the Tom Baker strips), the characters have primarily been original creations.

Of course, several of The Doctor's old foes, such as the Daleks and Cybermen, have had their moments. But, in terms of plots, all stories have been originals done for the magazine. There have been no attempts to adapt any of the TV adventures. An assortment of artists for the strip have done an extraordinary job of capturing the features of the Doctor-in-residence for these new stories.

There have also been secondary back-up strips, usually revolving around some of the Doctor's nastier opponents. Daleks, Cybermen, Sontarans, Autons, and even the Yeti have had their moments. In several cases, original characters (such as Absalom Draak, Dalek Killer, and the Freefall Warriors — a group introduced in one of the stories featuring Tom Baker's Doctor) have starred.

For a time, the magazine reprinted several of the weird/horror strips from some of Marvel's older U.S. magazines (such as an adaptation of *Doctor Jekyll and Mister Hyde* and *War of the Worlds*), but the most interesting reprint strip for fans had to have been the series designated "The Dalek Tapes." This consisted of the Dalek comic strip that had originally appeared during the '60s in the *TV 21* magazine (and possibly in the hardcover *Dalek Annuals*). At first the strips were reprinted in black-and-white (the magazine's interiors are black-and-white); later, the adventures of the Daleks (with their foes, the Mechanoids in one story) took over the back cover of the *Monthly* — this time in full color.

The character of The Doctor is no stranger to comic-strip adaptation. *Who* historian J. Jeremy Bentham recently put together a definitive article on the history of *Doctor Who* in comics, and it runs from a first appearance in *TV Action* magazine for Nov. 14, 1964 through its regeneration in the pages of *Doctor Who Weekly/Monthly*.

The interest in *Doctor Who* did not really get going in America until about four or five years ago — after a shaky attempt to introduce U.S. viewers to the series in the person of Jon Pertwee's Doctor.

Unfortunately, Time-Life's syndication of most of the first three seasons of the Pertwee adventure was, to put it mildly, sloppy. It wasn't until around 1979 or so that another attempt was made — this time, with the first four seasons of the fourth Doctor, Tom Baker (Seasons #12-15). Due to the massive exposure of Tom Baker's adventures, he is probably the most familiar of the Doctors to American fans. He has also, to date, had the longest tenure of the actors who have played the maverick Time Lord, chalking up a staggering seven years (and as many seasons), surpassing the record previously held by Doctor #3, Jon Pertwee, who had held sway for five years.

For a while, the only signs of *Doctor Who* at American conventions was the appearance of the novelizations and the

All actors playing The Doctor have been featured on the cover of the British ***Doctor Who*** *Marvel magazine. Tom Baker's Doctor was on the first issue (Page 48); Jon Pertwee (far left), William Hartnell (center), and Peter Cushing (right) appeared on other issues. Patrick Troughton (Page 55, left) also appeared, and current Doctor Colin Baker (Page 55, right) is now in the magazine.*

A Guide to 21 Seasons of the BBC's Hit The Companions and the Stories

[Below is a list of The Doctor's companions, the actors who played them, their span of appearances by story, and the number of episodes in that span. The last figure is an estimate, based on the number of episodes each story ran, whether or not the character was in each episode. The story guide lists story number by actor, not by official BBC code number. "H1" is William Hartnell's first story. The number at the end of each story title is the number of episodes each story ran; H1 had four episodes. (The BBC did not broadcast story titles for H1-H25, only episode titles for each chapter. These story titles are the accepted ones for each.) The dates listed are those of the original British broadcasts. In one case, "The Five Doctors," the story was shown in England ***after*** *it had been shown in America. The U.S. broadcast was Nov. 23, 1983. There were also two Doctor Who films,* ***Dr. Who and the Daleks*** *(1965) and* ***Daleks — Invasion Earth 2150 A.D.*** *(1966). Both starred Peter Cushing as an eccentric British inventor whose last name was Who. With several other changes, these were adaptations of H2 and H10.]*

The Companions

Ian Chesterton (William Russell)
H1 - H16 **77**

Barbara Wright (Jacqueline Hill)
H1 - H16 **77**

Susan Foreman (Carole Ann Ford)
H1 - H10, D14 **52**

Vicki (Maureen O'Brien)
H11 - H20 **39**

Steven Taylor (Peter Purves)
H16 - H26 **51**

Katarina (Adrienne Hill)
H20 - H21 **16**

Sarah Kingdom (Jean Marsh)
H21 **12**

Dorothea Chaplet (Jackie Lane)
H22 - H27 **24**

Polly Lopez (Anneke Wills)
H27 - T6 **40**

Ben Jackson (Michael Craze)
H27 - T6 **40**

Jamie McCrimmon (Frazer Hines)
T2 - T21 **113**

Victoria Waterfield (Deborah Watling)
T7 - T14 **47**

Zoe Herriet (Wendy Padbury)
T14 - T21 **50**

Liz Shaw (Caroline John)
P1 - P4 **25**

Jo Grant (Katy Manning)
P5 - P19 **77**

Sarah Jane Smith (Elisabeth Sladen)
P20 - B13, D14 **81**

Harry Sullivan (Ian Marter)
B1 - B6, B9 **28**

Leela (Louise Jameson)
B15-B23 **40**

K-9 (Mark I & Mark II) (voices of John Leeson & David Brierley)
B19 - B39, D14 **88**

Romanadvoratrelundar (Mark I & Mark II) (Mary Tamm & Lalla Ward)
B24 - B35, D14 **66**

Adric (Matthew Waterhouse)
B37-D6 **42**

Nyssa (Sarah Sutton)
B40 - D11 **50**

Tegan (Janet Fielding)
B41 - D18 **67**

Turlough (Mark Strickson)
D10 - D18 **33**

Shape Changer
D13 - D19 **21**

Peri Brown (Nicola Bryant)
D19 - CB1 **12**

William Hartnell as The Doctor
134 Episodes

Season I (Nov 23 63 - Sep 12 64)
H1 An Unearthly Child 4
H2 The Dead Planet 7
H3 The Edge of Destruction 2
H4 Marco Polo 7
H5 The Keys of Marinus 6
H6 The Aztecs 4
H7 The Sensorites 6
H8 The Reign of Terror 6

Season II (Oct 31 64 - Jul 24 65)
H9 Planet of Giants 3
H10 Dalek Invasion of Earth 6
H11 The Rescue 2
H12 The Romans 4
H13 The Web Planet 6
H14 The Crusaders 4
H15 The Space Museum 4
H16 The Chase 6
H17 The Time Meddler 4

Season III (Sep 11 65 - Jul 16 66)
H18 Galaxy Four 4
H19 Mission to the Unknown 1
H20 The Myth Makers 4
H21 The Dalek Master Plan 12
H22 The Massacre 4
H23 The Ark 4
H24 The Celestial Toymaker 4
H25 The Gunfighters 4
H26 The Savages 4
H27 The War Machines 4

Season IV (Sep 10 66 - Jul 1 67)
H28 The Smugglers 4
H29 The Tenth Planet 4

Patrick Troughton as The Doctor
119 Episodes
T1 The Power of the Daleks 6
T2 The Highlanders 4
T3 The Underwater Menace 4
T4 The Moonbase 4
T5 The Macra Terror 4
T6 The Faceless Ones 6
T7 The Evil of the Daleks 7

Season V (Sep 2 67 - Jun 1 68)
T8 The Tomb of the Cybermen 4
T9 The Abominable Snowmen 6
T10 The Ice Warriors 6
T11 The Enemy of the World 6
T12 The Web of Fear 6
T13 Fury from the Deep 6
T14 The Wheel in Space 6

Season VI (Aug 10 68 - Jun 21 69)
T15 The Dominators 5
T16 The Mind Robber 5
T17 The Invasion 8
T18 The Krotons 4
T19 The Seeds of Death 6
T20 The Space Pirates 6
T21 The War Games 10

Jon Pertwee as The Doctor
128 Episodes

Season VII (Jan 3 70 - Jun 20 70)
P1 Spearhead from Space 4
P2 The Silurians 7
P3 The Ambassadors of Death 7
P4 Inferno 7

Season VIII (Jan 2 71 - Jun 19 71)
P5 Terror of the Autons 4
P6 The Mind of Evil 6
P7 The Claws of Axos 4
P8 Colony in Space 6
P9 The Daemons 5

Season IX (Jan 1 72 - Jun 24 72)
P10 Day of the Daleks 4
P11 The Curse of Peladon 4
P12 The Sea Devils 6
P13 The Mutants 6
P14 The Time Monster 6

Season X (Dec 30 72 - Jun 23 73)
P15 The Three Doctors 4
P16 Carnival of Monsters 4
P17 Frontier in Space 6
P18 Planet of the Daleks 6
P19 The Green Death 6

Season XI (Dec 15 73 - Jun 8 74)
P20 The Time Warrior 4
P21 Invasion of the Dinosaurs 6
P22 Death to the Daleks 4

Over the Thanksgiving weekend 1984, the "TARDIS 21" convention brought a number of the show's celebrities to America. Many fans saw their favorite actors face-to-face for the first time. Top row, left to right: Jon Pertwee (photo by Beth Russell); Elisabeth Sladen (photo by Ken Skaro); Jon Pertwee, Colin Baker, and Peter Davison (photo by Beth Russell); Fraser Hines (photo by Ken Skaro). Center: Anthony Ainley is the villainous Master on the show; he delighted the cabaret audience by his rendition of "Where Have All the Doctors Gone?" Bottom row, left to right: Colin Baker at the cabaret complained (in a comedy routine with the show's producer) that he hadn't been paid for his work on the series yet. The U.N.I.T. panel featured Nicholas Courtney, John Levene, Richard Franklin, Jon Pertwee, Eric Hoffman, Patrick Troughton, and Ian Marter. (Black and white photos by Maggie Thompson.)

P23 The Monster of Peladon 6
P24 Planet of the Spiders 6

Tom Baker as The Doctor
172 Episodes

Season XII (Dec 28 74 - May 10 75)
B1 Robot 4
B2 The Ark in Space 4
B3 The Sontaran Experiment 2
B4 Genesis of the Daleks 4
B5 Revenge of the Cybermen 4

Season XIII (Aug 30 75 - Mar 6 76)
B6 Terror of the Zygons 4
B7 Planet of Evil 4
B8 Pyramids of Mars 4
B9 The Android Invasion 4
B10 The Brain of Morbius 4
B11 The Seeds of Doom 6

Season XIV (Sep 4 76 - Apr 2 77)
B12 The Masque of Mandragora 4
B13 The Hand of Fear 4
B14 The Deadly Assassin 4
B15 The Face of Evil 4
B16 The Robots of Death 4
B17 The Talons of Weng-Chiang 6

Season XV (Sep 3 77 - Mar 11 78)
B18 Horror of Fang Rock 4
B19 The Invisible Enemy 4
B20 Image of the Fendahl 4
B21 The Sun Makers 4
B22 Underworld 4
B23 The Invasion of Time 6

Season XVI (Sep 2 78 - Feb 24 79)
B24 The Ribos Operation 4
B25 The Pirate Planet 4
B26 The Stones of Blood 4
B27 The Androids of Tara 4
B28 The Power of Kroll 4
B29 The Armageddon Factor 6

Season XVII (Sep 1 79 - Jan 12 80)
B30 Destiny of the Daleks 4
B31 City of Death 4
B32 The Creature from the Pit 4
B33 Nightmare of Eden 4
B34 The Horns of Nimon 4

Season XVII (Aug 30 80 - Mar 21 81)
B35 The Leisure Hive 4
B36 Meglos 4
B37 Full Circle 4
B38 State of Decay 4
B39 Warriors' Gate 4
B40 The Keeper of Traken 4
B41 Logopolis 4

Peter Davison as The Doctor
71 Episodes

Season XIX (Jan 4 82 - Mar 30 82)
D1 Castrovalva 4
D2 Four to Doomsday 4
D3 Kinda 4
D4 The Visitation 4
D5 Black Orchid 2
D6 Earthshock 4
D7 Time Flight 4

Season XX (Jan 3 83 - Mar 16 83)
D8 Arc of Infinity 4
D9 Snakedance 4
D10 Mawdryn Undead 4
D11 Terminus 4
D12 Enlightenment 4
D13 The King's Demons 2

20th Anniversary Special (Nov 25 83)
D14 The Five Doctors 1

Season XXI (Jan 5 84 - Mar 30 84)
D15 Warriors of the Deep 4
D16 The Awakening 2
D17 Frontios 4
D18 Resurrection of the Daleks 4
D19 Planet of Fire 4
D20 Caves of Androzani 4

Colin Baker as The Doctor
4 Episodes (so far)
CB1 The Twin Dilemma 4

SLAM
WHOA! THERE'S A LOT OF BLOOD!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T YOU LIKE BLOOD?
I'M A VAMPIRE! I'M SUPPOSED TO LIKE

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Roussos on covers, Andy Yanchus and occasionally Ken Fenduniewicz on interiors) and printed via offset on Baxter paper.

Jim Salicrup, who says, "I wasn't a hard-core follower of The Doctor when I originally started editing the American editions," is Marvel's editor on the title — and he says that there is a possibility that new, American-written, stories could eventually appear in the title.

It will depend on how well the title does. The readers will decide whether the comic-book stories attract their own circle of devotees, as the TV show did.

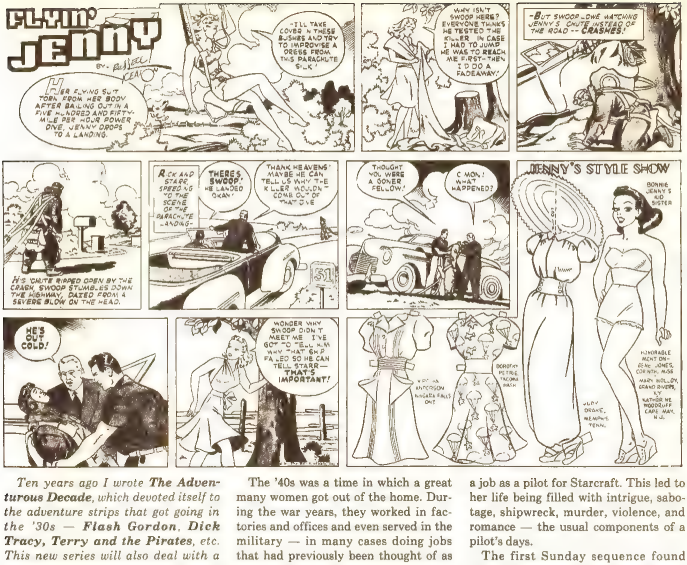
Even when it threatened to opt for silliness during the last few seasons of Tom Baker's tenure as the Doctor, *Doctor Who* has retained that special magic that was best summed up in words written by David Whitaker for the first edition of the book *The Making of Doctor Who* and long attributed to William Hartnell's Doctor:

Imagine if you can, silver leaves waving above a pool of gold filled with singing fishes. Twin moons in an alien sky. If you like, I'll show them to you, and they will be, I promise you, the dullest part of the journey. Come with me, and I will show you sights that you have never dreamed of. Or stay behind and regret it until your dying day . . ."

For more than two decades, millions of viewers have journeyed with the Doctor. They have never regretted taking that first journey.

Funnies in the 40's

Part 1: WILD, WILD WOMEN


FLYIN' JENNY
BY RUSSELL KEATON
I'LL TAKE COVER IN THESE BUSHES AND TRY TO IMPROVISE A DRESS FROM THIS PARACHUTE SILK!
HER FLYING SUIT TORN FROM HER BODY AFTER BAILING OUT IN A FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-MILE PER HOUR POWER DIVE, JENNY DROPS TO A LANDING.
WHY ISN'T SWOOP HERE? EVERYONE THINKS HE TESTED THE KILLER IN CASE I HAD TO JUMP! HE WAS TO REACH ME FIRST—THEN I'D DO A FADEAWAY!
-BUT SWOOP...SHE WATCHING JENNY'S CRUMPLED FORM BY THE ROAD -- CRASHES!
HIS SKULL RIPPED OPEN BY THE CRASH, SWOOP STUMBLES DOWN THE HIGHWAY, DAZED FROM A SAVAGE BLOW ON THE HEAD.
RICK AND STARR SPEED US TO THE SCENE OF THE PARACHUTE LANDING--
THERE'S SWOOP! HE LANDED OKAY!
THANK HEAVENS! MAYBE HE CAN TELL US WHY THE KILLER WOULDN'T COME OUT OF THAT DIVE
51
THOUGHT YOU WERE A GONER FELLOW!
C'MON! WHAT HAPPENED?
JENNY'S STYLE SHOW
BONNIE JENNY'S KID SISTER
HONORABLE MENTION--GLORIA JONES, CORINTH, MISS
MARY HOLLOW, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
AUTHOR HE WOOED UP CAPE MAY, N.J.
JUDY DRAKE, MEMPHIS, TENN.
HE'S OUT COLD!
WONDER WHY SWOOP DON'T MEET ME I'VE GOT TO TELL HIM THAT SHIP FAILED SO HE CAN TELL STARR--THAT'S IMPORTANT!
DOROTHY PETTIS, TACOMA, WASH.
MRS. ANDERSON MICHAELS FALLS, ONT.

Ten years ago I wrote ***The Adventurous Decade****, which devoted itself to the adventure strips that got going in the '30s —* ***Flash Gordon****,* ***Dick Tracy****,* ***Terry and the Pirates****, etc. This new series will also deal with a 10-year period in the history of newspaper comics: the '40s. Somewhat more ambitious, it'll cover humor strips as well as straight stuff. The '40s saw the birth of all sorts of new comic strips, some still with us, some long gone and forgotten.*

Adventure strips burgeoned in that decade — such as ***Johnny Hazard****,* ***Buz Sawyer****, and* ***Steve Canyon*** *— and so did humor —* ***Barnaby*** *and* ***Pogo****. This was also the time when soap opera —* ***Mary Worth****,* ***Rex Morgan, M.D.****, and* ***Cynthia*** *— came into its own in the funnies. A batch of new detectives showed up —* ***Rip Kirby****,* ***Vic Flint****, and* ***Kerry Drake*** *— and during the World War II years quite a few men in uniform —* ***Biff Baker****,* ***Captain Yank****, and* ***Draftie****.*

Women were much in evidence in the comics sections, not just as housewives and secretaries. There were quite a few adventurous ladies who came along in the '40s, and our first chapter is devoted to them.

The '40s was a time in which a great many women got out of the home. During the war years, they worked in factories and offices and even served in the military — in many cases doing jobs that had previously been thought of as being for men only. In the funny papers, too, women could be found working in areas that had hitherto been pretty much limited to men. There were lady detectives, airplane pilots, cowpokes, and costumed crimefighters. These new paper dolls were smart, capable, pretty, and (in most cases) a lot sexier than the funnies ladies of previous decades.

One of the leading-lady daredevils of the '40s actually got going in the '30s. *Flyin' Jenny* first took to the air in the autumn of 1939. The feature, offering separate continuities daily and Sunday, was by Russell Keaton. A graduate of *Buck Rogers* and *Skyroads*, Keaton was just a few hours away from his own pilot's license when *Flyin' Jenny* started.

The daily strip opened with pretty blonde Jenny Dare winging over the Starcraft Aviaton Factory and awing everybody with her skills, which included "coming in for a landing — *upside down!*" A feisty, independent young woman, Jenny talked herself into a job as a pilot for Starcraft. This led to her life being filled with intrigue, sabotage, shipwreck, murder, violence, and romance — the usual components of a pilot's days.

The first Sunday sequence found Jenny, "daring girl pilot," based at the Airdale Airport and getting ready for the Trans-America Trophy Race. She'd be flying a plane designed by her handsome friend Rick. Things didn't go smoothly, though, what with gamblers wrecking the plane, competition from a fat, brash pilot named Spinner Martin, and the entry of a mystery woman.

As the strip progressed, Jenny proved she was the equal of such male competitors as Tailspin Tommy and Smilin' Jack. She got into as many air races and intrigues as they did; during World War II she was even in combat. She differed from them in that she took off her clothes more often. Jenny was frequently seen lounging in her nightie or slipping into something more comfortable. In one memorable Sunday episode she bailed out of her ailing plane, parachuting to safety. On the trip to earth she managed to loose her flying suit and made an impressive landing in her undies.

Jenny held on until 1946, but the world of flying wasn't thought of as

Miss Fury
YOU SEE, SIREN, HOW WELL GARY HALE, JR., MINDS ME? THERE'S NOT A SOUND FROM HIS SUITE SINCE I PUT HIM IN THE OTHER ROOM AND CLOSED THIS DOOR.
A CHILD, MY DEAR, MUST BE DISCIPLINED RIGHT FROM THE CRADLE... I HAVE HIM SO TRAINED, THAT---
OH STOP LISTENING TO YOU ONE WOULD THINK HE'S YOUR SON.
HE'LL BE THE HAPPIEST THING TO IT AS SOON AS WE'RE MARRIED. AND NOW THAT YOU'RE THE WIDOW HALE--
ALL RIGHT--- ALL RIGHT WAIT UNTIL I HEAR OFFICIALLY MY HUSBAND HAS BEEN KILLED IN ACTION!
MEANWHILE---THIS FLOOR ABOVE---
YOU'RE SURE I CAN'T HELP ANY MORE WITH PACKING, BENVENUTA, DRAGA?
VERY WELL--- I'LL LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN FOR THE PORTER TO TAKE THE LUGGAGE.
I CAN ONLY TAKE ONE PIECE OF LUGGAGE ON THE PLANE, SO IT'S BETTER THAT ONE MYSELF. BESIDES---
...I DIDN'T WANT GONNA TO SEE THAT ACCURSED BLACK LEOPARD AGAIN.
IF ONLY WHEN MY UNCLE LEFT IT TO ME, HE HADN'T INSISTED THAT I SHOULD NEVER PART WITH IT!
HE BELIEVED WHOEVER WORE IT WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ALMOST ANYTHING.
BUT, AS THE INDIAN, ALBINO JO LATER SAID WITH EVERY RASP, DAVID THROUGH BLACK MAGIC.
GO TWO MORTIMERS!
I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I WORE IT...
AND WHEN I RECALL ALL THE THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED SINCE THEN--- FIRST MY ENGAGEMENT TO GARY HALE, HIS BROTHER OFF--THEN---
OH--BUT I'M BEING STUPID--- IT'S ALL NOTHING BUT SILLY SUPERSTITION.
WELL, SINCE I HAVE TO TAKE UP LUGGAGE, SPACE FOR IT--- PERHAPS HOW MUCH IT WEIGHS?
GATO? UN GATO?
WHA---? WHO SAID---?
!

*(Above:) Tarpe Mills' **Miss Fury** fought villains in a black leopardskin — which she considers moodily in the strip from Nov. 5, 1944. (Below:) Dale Messick's **Brenda Starr** fought villains as a reporter. During this period of the strip, it ran across a two-page spread in the Chicago **Tribune**'s "Comic Book Magazine" section. This is the right half of the strip for Sept. 8, 1940.*

Reporter
OH! OH!
DO I HEAR A MORSE CODE SIGNAL?
...AND WHAT GOOD IS THE MORSE CODE IN THIS FAMILY APARTMENT BUILDING?
WELL, YOU CAN'T BLAME A GIRL FOR TRYING.....
SUCH SPIRIT! I'LL NOW RELEASE YOU AS WE ARE GOING TO MY COUNTRY ESTATE....
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?
OH! IT'S A CHAIN OF BRENDA STARR
WHY, YOU!
OH BOY! THEY GOT MY MESSAGE NOW, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, BARON? HEAR THAT--- THE POLICE ARE COMING
WILL CALL POLICE AT ONCE
THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE... I MUST MAKE A DASH FOR MY OTHER HIDEOUT
PUT ON THIS CAPE AND GET GOING..... ONE PEEP OUT OF YOU AND...
?
...BUT, BARON I CAN'T GO WITHOUT SHOES
HERE, WEAR A PAIR OF MINE
MY! WHAT SMALL FEET YOU HAVE, BARON..... THESE JUST FIT
NEVER MIND ABOUT MY SMALL FEET! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SHOES?
WHY- ER... THEY-- WERE HURTING MY FEET SO I NICKED THEM OFF AND CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE.....
copyright, 1940, by The Chicago Tribune.

romantic and exciting after the war. One of the final stories was concerned with Jenny's attempts to adjust to the civilian world. After cashing in her last war bond, Jenny made the rounds of possible employers. She was told, "Sorry, Jenny, pilots are a dime a dozen."

Originally Keaton wrote the scripts himself, then Frank Wead assumed that chore. A former Navy pilot and screenwriter, Wead was later the subject of the John Wayne movie *The Wings of Eagles*. After Wead came Glenn Chaffin, the co-creator of *Tailspin Tommy*. When Keaton, just 35, died in 1945, his assistant Marc Swayze took over and stayed with Jenny through her last flight.

Invisible Scarlet O'Neil, a somewhat unconventional crimefighter, first appeared in the newspapers in June of 1940. That was just a year after Clark Gable told Scarlett O'Hara he didn't give a damn. Owing something to both the movies and the burgeoning comic books, the strip was the work of Russell Stamm. He'd been Chester Gould's assistant on *Dick Tracy* for five years, and his backgrounds were nearly identical. Stamm's people, though, had more of a "bigfoot" appearance. Scarlet, like the ideal screen woman of the early '40s, had long hair and broad shoulders.

Invisible Scarlet, described in promotional copy as "America's new superheroine," came by her phenomenal power because she was curious.

"My father was a scientist," she explained in the first day's strip, "and one evening a few years ago I was in his laboratory when . . ." What she had done was stick her finger in front of a "weird-looking ray." This ray turned people invisible, clothes and all.

Fortunately for Scarlet, she eventually discovered a "highly sensitive nerve in my left wrist." The nerve acted as a two-way switch, enabling her to turn visible and invisible at will. An invisible heroine might have been an opportunity to save on drawing for some, but not Stamm. He drew Scarlet even when she was not supposed to be seen, making her seem more transparent than invisible. The strip survived through the '40s, not turning permanently invisible until 1954.

Even closer to being a true comic book feature was Tarpe Mills' *Miss Fury*. A Sunday page, initially titled *Black Fury*, it started on April 6, 1941. Miss Mills was by then a veteran of several years in comic books, having drawn *Daredevil Barry Finn, Mann of India*, and the incomparable *Purple Zombie*.

Her Sunday page had a hardboiled comic-book look, full of action and flamboyant violence. In her first month on the job Miss Fury, after surviving an auto crash, clawed a detective across the face, stepped on his gun hand, kicked him in the head, and then saw to it that a crook took a header through a car windshield. She didn't have any superpowers but seemed tough enough without them.

By day she was lovely socialite Marla Drake; by night she slipped into a black leopard-skin to fight crime. There were quite a few traditional bondage elements in the feature — whips, branding irons, spike-heel shoes, men beating women, women tearing each other's clothes off, and a handsome selection of frilly lingerie. During the war years much of the action took place in Brazil and featured a one-armed, bald Nazi officer who must've been the envy of Eric Von Stroheim.

Brenda Starr, one of the most durable ladies in the funnies, began life on Sunday, June 30, 1940. She commenced her long journalistic career in the Chicago *Tribune*, not in its fat comic section but in a small supplement called *Comic Book Magazine*. The advent of Superman two years before had precipitated a comic-book boom, and many newspapers became persuaded that some sort of funny-book tie-in would boost circulation. The most successful supplement was *The Spirit* booklet. The *Trib*'s attempt was not a winner, and its only real achievement was the introduction of the red-headed reporter.

When first we met Brenda she was being told by her cigar-chomping editor that she had to get an interview with a notorious jailed criminal by midnight or she'd be fired. Although somewhat crudely drawn, Brenda was attractive,

DEBBIE DEAN
By Bert Whitman
WHAT'S WRONG, DEB? YOU LOOK ILL!
--ER...GULP!! NOTHING AT ALL... JUST INDIGESTION I GUESS!
DOES THE THOUGHT OF WRITING ADVICE TO THE LOVELORN FRIGHTEN YOU?..
...IT'S NOT SO HARD... JUST EVERYDAY REASONING...
...TAKE THIS LETTER, SIGNED--"DOUBTFUL"! THE YOUNG GIRL FEELS HER RIVAL IS MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN SHE IS...
...IT'S A SIMPLE ONE! - JUST TELL HER TO DOLL HERSELF UP ... MORE!
! THAT'S DEBBIE'S LETTER!
SEE?
I SEE, BOSS!
SO! THAT'S WHAT HE LIKES ABOUT THE COUNTESS! IF IT'S GLAMOUR HE WANTS... OKAY, AIR, ROMEO, YOU'LL GET IT!
3-29
DEBBIE DEAN
By Bert Whitman
THE NEXT DAY
MALONE SEEMS TO BE FALLING FOR THE COUNTESS' GLAMOUR- IF THAT'S WHAT HE LIKES- THAT'S WHAT HE'LL GET...
LET'S SEE? -THIS WAY!
OR THIS WAY? ...HMMM! NOT BAD!
WELL, COUNTESS! YOU'VE GOT A FIGHT ON YOUR HANDS FOR DICK MALONE!- 'DEB VS. THE COUNTESS' ... WINNER TAKE ALL - IF 'ALL' IS WORTH THE TROUBLE!
3-30

and she radiated confidence and pluck. Few readers gazing at the new strip could've doubted that Brenda would get her story.

Dale Messick, the lady responsible for *Brenda Starr, Reporter*, was in her middle thirties when the strip began. Her previous professional artwork had been done in the greeting-card field. When asked how she got into the comic-strip business, Messick told an interviewer, "Well, a bunch of bedbugs were responsible." She went on to explain that she'd moved out of her Greenwich Village apartment because of too many bedbugs in residence. Taking a place in the Tudor City complex on 42nd Street, she'd met C.D. Batchelor at an art class for residents. He was the political cartoonist on the New York *News* "and while I was dating him, he won the Pulitzer Prize." Batchelor championed Messick's cause, and the result was, after a few false starts, the job with the Chicago *Tribune*.

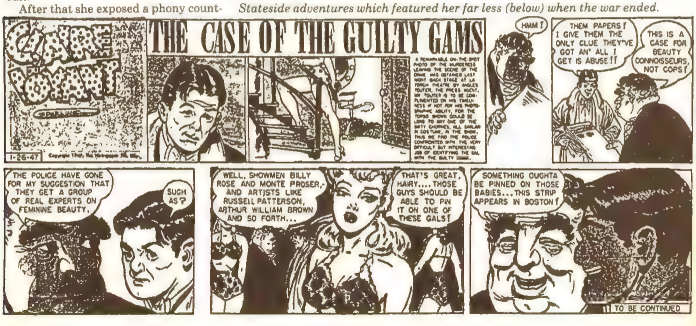
Before too long *Brenda* graduated to the real Sunday funnies and added a daily strip a few years later. A somewhat wacky blend of adventure pulp, soap opera, and fashion show, the feature has survived to this day. When Dale Messick stopped drawing the strip, comic-book veteran Ramona Fradon took her place.

Another woman reporter came along in 1944 in the person of Debbie Dean. An "heiress to a fabulous fortune," the attractive brunette had tired of the debutante life. Deciding she wanted "some honest to goodness excitement," Debbie finagled a job on a large metropolitan newspaper. Soon her aggressive inquisitiveness got her involved with a sinister cult.

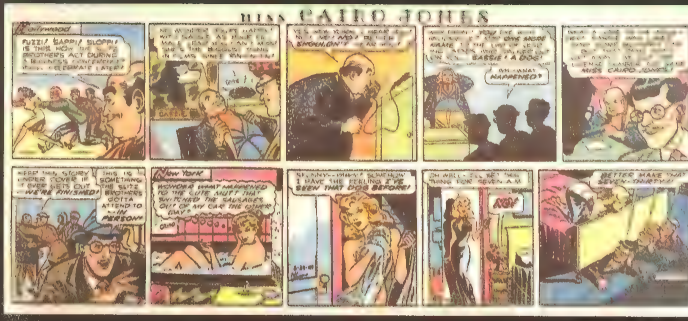
After that she exposed a phony countess, fought corruption in the boxing game, and tackled some Nazi agents. Eventually, the restless deb, tired of the newspaper world, switched to a career as a social worker. The strip moved more into the soap-opera camp, turning

CLAIRE VOYANT
I'M PUSHING ON TO FAR EASTERN COMMAND HEADQUARTERS. WHEN YOU GET BACK TO PUTTKING THE NAVY INTELLIGENCE MAN WILL GET YOU OUT OF CHINA.
Copyright, 1945, The Newspaper PM, Inc.
I MISS HIM ALREADY.
YEAH! SO DO I!
BARLING

Claire Voyant *went from adventures on the high seas during the war (above) to Stateside adventures which featured her far less (below) when the war ended.*


THE CASE OF THE GUILTY GAMS
HMM!
THEM PAPERS! I GIVE THEM THE ONLY CLUE THEY'VE GOT AN' ALL I GET IS ABUSE!!
THIS IS A CASE FOR BEAUTY CONNOISSEURS, NOT COPS!
THE POLICE HAVE GONE FOR MY SUGGESTION THAT THEY GET A GROUP OF REAL EXPERTS ON FEMININE BEAUTY.
SUCH AS?
WELL, SHOWMEN BILLY ROSE AND MONTE PROSER, AND ARTISTS LIKE RUSSELL PATTERSON, ARTHUR WILLIAM BROWN AND SO FORTH...
THAT'S GREAT, HARY,... THOSE GUYS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PIN IT ON ONE OF THESE GALS!
SOMETHING OUGHTA BE PINNED ON THOSE BABIES... THIS STRIP APPEARS IN BOSTON!
TO BE CONTINUED

FLYIN' JENNY
JENNY'S STYLE SHOW
BEWARE! REMEMBER GRACE LORE! WHO WILL BE THE NEXT VICTIM ?
LET ME ALONE! I TOLD YOU I'M NOT AFRAID!
DON'T KID YOURSELF HONEY! AND SHE'S NO DOCTOR AT ALL!
SHE'S A DOGGER LIKE


MISS CAIRO JONES
Continuous
SIZZLE! SIZZLE! SIZZLE! IS THIS HOW YOUR BROTHER'S ACT DURING A BUSINESS CONFERENCE?
SIZZLE
SMOKE!
WHAT HAPPENED?
SAUSAGES!
KEEP THIS SECRET! THIS IS WHERE LOVE IS SOMETHING EVEN CUTER THAN SIZZLE BROTHERS!
New York
WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CUTE NUT? SHE SWITCHED THE SAUSAGES BACK SO SHE CAN THE CLOWN!
SQUEAK!
SQUEAK!
I HAVE THE FEELING I'VE SEEN THAT DOG BEFORE!
OH WELL... I'LL BET THOSE THINGS TOOK SEVEN A.M.
ASH
BETTER MAKE THAT SEVEN-THIRTY!!

INVISIBLE
SCARLET
O'NEIL
By.... RUSSELL
© 1947 Chicago Times, Inc.
SO! A MAGICIAN NO LESS... ALL THIS AND MAGIC TOO.
LOOK! MAYBE I AIN'T HOUDINI...BUT I DON'T BE INSINUATIN' I AIN'T NO MAGICIAN
EXCUSE ME
MISS TORRIDO, MEET MISS VERMILLION, THE FAMOUS MAGICIAN.
WE MET. HOW Y'DOIN', KID? DON'T PAY NO ATTENTION TO HIM... HE WOULDN'T BE WORTH SEEIN' IF YOU MADE YOURSELF INVISIBLE.
NO KIDDIN'
SCARLET BELIEVES THE MAN WHO TURNED MURDER MEN IS WITH THIS VAUDEVILLE ACT. SHE PLANS TO BE WORKING IN THE MORNING!
WELL PULL A COUPLA PIDGEONS OUT AN' LES SEE WHAT YOU C'N DO.
Y'SEE, I ONLY GOT ONE KINDA TRICK... BUT IT'S TERRIFIC.
ONE THING Y'GOTTA UNDERSTAND... NO SNOOPIN' AROUND TRYIN' TO FIND OUT MY PROFESSIONAL SECRETS... RIGHT?
O.K. O.K. O.K.
YOU TALK A GREAT ACT...WELL, SLIP INTO YOUR COSTUME AND SET UP YOUR PARAPHENALIA WHILE I...
WHILE YOU CHANGE MY DRESS
WHO'S THE DOLL, LENNY... A NEW ACT?
NAW! JUST A BABE WHAT THINKS SHE'S A MAGICIAN.
COURSE YOU'D HAVE TSIVE THIS TRICK A BIG BUILD UP...BUT IT'LL GIVE YOU SOME IDEA OF HOW I WORK.
OF COURSE.
ON THE OTHER SIDE YOU WILL SEE MY NAME IN LARGE LETTERS...I SHALL NOW TURN AND FACE THE CORNER.
YEAH, YEAH.
WATCH CAREFULLY WHEN I TURN TOWARD YOU AGAIN...SIT TIGHT AND HOLD YOUR HAT.
SURE, SURE, I'M WATCHIN'
VERMILLION THE INVISIBLE
2-16-47

somewhat sedate in appearance. In the early days you could count on seeing Debbie in her underwear every couple of weeks.

Written and drawn by Bert Whitman, *Debbie Dean* folded before the decade was over. Whitman went on to become an award-winning editorial cartoonist. He'd been in the comic-book field prior to doing the strip, drawing such features as *The Phantom Eagle* and *The Green Hornet*. In addition, he ran a shop in the early '40s that provided artwork for several short-lived comic-book titles. Included in his staff were Irwin Hasen, Jack Kirby, and Frank Robbins. Like Robbins, Whitman had a style that looked to have been influenced by Milton Caniff. His work was fairly attractive but gave the impression he usually drew with one eye on the clock.

Claire Voyant was unconscious during the opening days of her new strip. She was first seen on Monday, May 10, 1943, as one of the two occupants of a drifting lifeboat in the Atlantic, a huddled shape who was "more dead than alive." Rescued and brought aboard a freighter, she had no memory of who she was. Overhearing someone use the word "clairvoyant," she adopted that as her name.

"I picked a girl hero because it has appeal in the papers," Jack Sparling once explained. "I picked a girl with amnesia because we were in the middle of the war and I didn't want to give her any family ties after the war was over." At the time *Claire Voyant* started, Sparling, though still in his twenties, was already a newspaper-strip veteran. He'd been drawing *Hap Hopper*, about a newspaper reporter, since 1939.

Claire's early adventures took place on the high seas, mixing encounters with Nazi subs and romance with two of the ship's better-looking crewmen, Tex and Spike by name. After a spell of Oriental intrigue, Claire returned to the United States at the end of the war. The continuities started involving show business, public relations, and other peacetime pursuits. Claire herself took less of a part in the action, having been converted into a sort of sexy Mary Worth. The strip, apparently at Sparling's instigation, ceased in 1948.

Miss Cairo Jones made her debut on the last Sunday in July 1945 and, before the intitial page was over, she had stripped down to little more than her lacy lingerie. By the end of the second Sunday, still clad only in her undies, she was being pursued by a nasty fellow who was brandishing a sword cane. For the next several months, that was the story of her life — skimpy attire and one peril after another. As drawn by Bob Oksner, the blonde Cairo was one of the most attractive and watchable trouble-prone ladies of the '40s. Interestingly enough, she had begun life as a man.

While Oksner had been turning out comic-book pages in the West 45th Street Manhattan offices of the outfit that eventually became the American Comics Group, he got the urge to try a newspaper strip. What he had in mind, he once told me, was an adventure strip with a Joel McCrea-type foreign correspondent as the hero.

He named his leading man Cairo Jones and, when he had sufficient samples, he took them around to John Wheeler, head of the Bell Syndicate. Although the husky, gruff-voiced Wheeler was impressed by Oksner's work, he held the opinion that what the newspaper-reading public wanted one might've been titled *Mrs. Saber Von Tigron*.

Cairo kept moving around, getting embroiled in other postwar intrigue. In Rome, for instance, she had trouble with a pair of nasty crooks named Luisa Borgi and Dr. Villani. She also had to dodge bullets, knives, and an attempted beating with a rubber hose. No matter how serious her danger, though, Cairo managed to look terrific. We got to view her in everything from a slinky evening gown to the shower.

Before the strip was a year old, Jerry Albert dropped out, leaving the writing to Oksner. He started changing *Miss Cairo Jones* into a lighter, more satirical adventure feature. "I really wasn't happy dealing with a woman character in heavy melodrama," he once explained. The switch to a new type of continuity coincided with the addition of a daily strip in July of 1946. Cairo settled down to American locales and

These new paper dolls were smart, capable, pretty, and (in most cases) a lot sexier than the funnies ladies of previous decades.

more of right now was a pretty girl adventure heroine. *Miss Fury* was doing well for his syndicate, so Wheeler simply borrowed the "Miss" and tacked it on to *Cairo Jones*.

Back at ACG, Oksner, between comic-book pages, transformed his character into a sexy, long-legged blonde. Liking the new, improved samples, Wheeler signed up the strip for the Associated Newspapers syndicate, a subsidiary of Bell.

When the strip began, the writing was supplied by Jerry Albert, an ACG coworker. There was still a tough newspaper man, named Steve Racy, in this version. He was trying to track down and expose a notorious war criminal known as Saber Von Tigron. Cairo, it turned out, was married to, though long separated from, Von Tigron. Originally, she felt the stories about his Nazi activities were simply press distortions, but she eventually came to see the light.

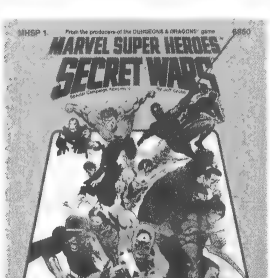
"It took a candlestick over my head to set me straight," she told Steve. "Saber never loved me. He took an American wife for one purpose only . . . to protect his money here!" Joining forces, she and the handsome newsman tracked Von Tigron to Mexico and contributed to his downfall and demise. It's a good thing Claire was more liberated than many of the women of the '40s and retained her maiden name. Otherwise the strip adventures that allowed Oksner to kid big business, advertising, and Hollywood.

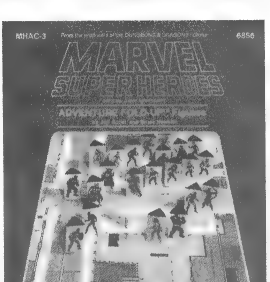
He was always one of the best depictors of pretty women and did a commendable job on this strip. His style was loose and attractive, a personal blend of the Caniff approach with some more cartoony elements. At the height of its success the strip had just over a hundred papers, ranging from the New York *Post* and the Boston *Globe* to the Oakland *Post-Enquirer*. By 1947, however, it had begun to slip, and before spring was over it was gone. Looking back some years later, Oksner said he felt the switch to humor was a mistake. On the other hand, though, he had a lot more fun doing it that way.

Several other adventurous ladies emerged in the '40s. There was Vesta West, a hard-riding cowgirl; Wild Rose, whose venue was hillbilly country; and Mitzi McCoy, a deb who palled around with newsmen. This last feature, by Kreigh Collins, later turned into *Kevin the Bold*, making one less lady with a strip in her name.

With few exceptions, most of the women who've set up shop in subsequent decades have been in either the soap or the comedy business. Honest-to-goodness heroines are scarce in the funnies these days, and that could just be one more reason why fewer folks are turning to the comic pages.

YOU CAN BE A MARVEL HERO





***Marvel Super-Heroes, the Heroic Role-Playing Game**, designed by Jeff Grubb, written by Steve Winter. Game design © 1984 TSR Inc. Suggested retail price $13.50.*

By Kim Metzger

Ever since super-hero role-playing games such as *Champions, Villains & Vigilantes*, and *Superworld* appeared, some gamers have spent a lot of time trying to figure out how to adapt their favorite comic-book characters to these various game systems. How many points of strength, for example, should The Hulk have in *Superworld*? How much damage can a *Villains & Vigilantes*-styled Starfire do with her starbolts? And how in the heck do you make a power ring work cheaply enough to be practical in the *Champions* system?

Considering these difficulties (and the determination of players to overcome them), it isn't surprising that game systems are appearing which are licensed to use characters from the major comics companies.

A role-playing game using DC characters should be out by the time you read this, and a Marvel game went on the market in the summer of 1984.

Marvel Super-Heroes, the Heroic Role-Playing Game was released this past summer by TSR. Instantly, two questions arose: (1) How good a game is it? and (2) How much of a Marvel Comics "feel" does it have?

In answer to the first question, gamers used to any of the previously mentioned systems may be disappointed by the Marvel game. Compared to *Champions* or *Superworld*, *Marvel Super-Heroes* is relatively easy and simple to learn. But that's exactly what the designers set out to achieve.

When Jeff Grubb and Steve Winter put this game together, they kept in mind that many people who have never played role-playing games before might buy this game due to the attraction of the Marvel name. If they made the game *too* hard, with tough-to-understand rules, buyers might toss the game aside unplayed and shun all similar games in the future — hardly the sort of thing that game giant TSR Inc. wants to have happen.

Instead, Grubb and Winter set out to create a role-playing game anyone could understand and start to play in a few hours.

In *Marvel Super-Heroes*, the various abilities of the characters have already been laid out for the players. In the basic set, eight characters (Mr. Fantastic, The Thing, The Human Torch, The Invisible Girl, Spider-Man, Captain Marvel, Captain America, Spider-Man, and Wolverine) appear on cards with the statistics for each character on the back. If you play one of these characters, all you have to do is familiarize yourself with the rankings of his or her abilities.

Rank classifications include "feeble," "poor," "typical," "good," "excellent," "remarkable," "incredible," "amazing," "monstrous," and "unearthly." (There is also a rank called "class 1000," which applies to characters such as Galactus and Odin, but players will seldom, if

*TSR staffer David Collins conducts a demonstration of **Marvel Super-Heroes, the Heroic Role-Playing Game** at TSR's 1984 GEN Con.*

*At the top of the page are the game module adaption of **The Secret Wars** and a set of stand-up cardboard figures to use as markers in the Marvel game.*

ever, be handling characters at this level.) Each rank has a set number of points to it. For example, the rank of "incredible" has 40 points. Spider-Man's strength is listed in this category. This means, if he hits someone or something, he does 40 points of damage. The Thing has monstrous strength, worth 75 points — so he has that much power behind every punch.

The outcome of performing various actions in the game is determined by consulting the universal table and the battle effects table. After very simple adjustments are made (depending on how the ranks of the opponents compare with the character being played), the player rolls a pair of 10-sided percentile dice (supplied with the game) and checks the proper column for the result.

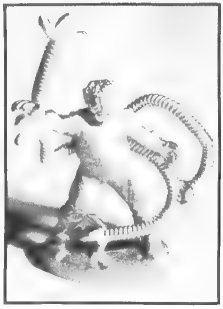
The result will fall into one of four categories: white (failure), green (possible success), yellow (probable success), and red (definite success).

If a player were rolling for results of a fight in the "good" column, for example, and rolled a 45, he probably threw a punch that didn't connect. If, on the other hand, that player rolled a 77, he not only hit and did damage, he probably slammed his opponent back a few feet.

Chances for success increase and decrease according to how evenly matched opponents are. In the adventure "Day of the Octopus" (included with the game), Captain America, Spider-Man, The Thing, and Captain Marvel are all pitted against a team of villains consisting of The Fixer, The Beetle, The Scorpion, The Radioactive Man, and Doctor Octopus. If, in the game, Spider-Man attacks The Fixer, their fighting abilities are compared. Spider-Man has remarkable fighting ability; The Fixer's is typical, three ranks below Spider-Man's. Since Spider-Man has the advantage, the fight is played as if Spider-Man's ability were three ranks higher than normal. That puts Spider-Man's fighting ability at the "monstrous" level, with a very good chance of clobbering Fixer, who's a pretty wimpy villain anyway.

Conversely, when The Fixer's turn comes to fight Spider-Man, he must be played as if his rank were three levels *lower* than normal. Fixer would then be saddled with a less than feeble chance of beating Spider-Man. He could do it, but he'd have to roll *very* well.

As for capturing the flavor of the Marvel universe, the game is fairly successful. Each of the adventures published so far contains boxed paragraphs to be read by the gamemaster, paragraphs which take the place of Marvel-style narrative. The instruction books are also faithful to the Marvel style, with Spider-Man, The Thing, Dr. Strange, Captain America, Dr. Doom and others taking turns explaining the rules. (I must say, however, the authors don't quite succeed in capturing The Thing's speech pattern, a sacrifice probably made for clarity's sake in explaining the rules.) But, of course, the responsibility for ultimately capturing the feeling of Marvel Comics rests with the players.



Players aren't restricted to Marvel characters, though. Simple rules for generating characters of their own are given, so original heroes and villains can also battle with or against the Marvel stars.

In all, the *Marvel Super-Heroes* game is an excellent introduction to the world of gaming for the newcomer. My one real complaint with the game is that it's going to take a while before stats for *all* of the Marvel characters are available. TSR *is* working on it. Two modules are available that feature The X-Men and The Fantastic Four and give abilities for the members of those groups. And TSR has also published *Avengers Assembled!*, which gives stats on *everyone*, alive or dead, who's ever been a member of that team, including all of the incarnations of Henry Pym; *Lone Wolves*, which does the same for Daredevil, The Black Widow, Power Man, and Iron Fist; and *The Secret Wars*, a module that allows you to reenact events in that high-selling Marvel maxi-series. In addition, TSR's magazine, *Dragon*, is now giving stats for different characters each issue.

Until all characters are covered, this will give more experienced gamers a chance to figure out how to work with the ones not covered.

A side note: TSR has issued two sets of miniatures in connection with the Marvel game. The figures are, by and large, extremely well detailed: The miniature of Spider-Man shows him vaulting over a brick wall so detailed there's even debris behind it. The cost of the sets are $11. Even non-gamers might like to have it around. Besides Spider-Man, the sets include metal figures of Mr. Fantastic, The Thing, The Human Torch (what, no Invisible Girl?), The X-Men, Dr. Strange, Iron Man, Captain America, The Hulk, Dr. Doom, and Magneto, among others.

PRICE GUIDE

Comics Collector's price guide is designed to provide information on the most current values in the comics world. **It is fully revamped and updated every three months, so you always have the most current information on what your collection is worth.** It is designed to be a price guide **and** an easy-to-use index of all current comics. The abbreviations below will help you find the leading artists, heroes, villains, and events in each issue. This format is designed to help both the newcomer and the experienced collector.

Beginning with major DC and Marvel titles from the mid-'50s, we offer information on title runs to date. The super-hero is the main focus within the hobby, and it is the main focus of this list. Current trends have been carefully studied and are revealed in our list's prices.

These prices reflect current selling trends. Many collectors don't realize that, in some regions and at some times of the year, certain issues will be higher or lower than seems standard in other locations at other times. For instance, a certain artist sometimes attends a convention, where his work will be highly sought after. This, in turn, may cause the price on his art to rise in that region. And economic conditions can have a strong influence on prices. Areas with high unemployment will find prices dropping, while prices in other areas are rising. With worse economic conditions, high-priced items and middle-value comics tend to drop in value or have their prices debated. (The pristine older comic is usually an exception to this.)

A new phenomenon has arisen in comics — the plethora of exciting new issues. Demand has been so great in some cases that new issues have risen in value almost immediately. Dealers' supplies diminish quickly, and values then begin to climb sharply, with dealers unable to restock a hot issue easily. **This price guide has been updated to reflect trends occurring in the last three months.**

No single source can provide a universally acceptable value guide to comics. Dealers' price lists provided an information source for this new compilation, as did advertised buy and sell ads, auction results, and surveys of comics conventions. Special mention must be given to **The Comic Book Price Guide**, by Robert M. Overstreet. This work, now in its 14th year, has been a primary source of comics information and is a must for every collector.

Special thanks to Time Machine I in Gainesville, Fla.; Classic Movie and Comic Center in Livonia, Mich.; Comic Investments in Philadelphia, Pa.; Third Planet Books and Records in Houston, Texas; The Comic Shop in Toledo, Ohio; Action Comics in New York, N.Y.; Comic Collector Shop in San Leandro, Calif.; and Yesteryear's Collectibles in Ridgefield, Conn., for the information they freely provided for our price poll.

The prices stated are for near-mint comics. This is the most acceptable and general condition a collector desires for newer comics. The condition of comics is a vital factor in determining comics values.

The trends in comics are still up. The hottest artist is Paul Smith for his work on **The X-Men**. All his work for Marvel is starting to rise in value. Watch **The X-Men** #167 to #171; they are ready to take off. What can we say about **G.I. Joe**? It is still getting hotter, and a California dealer says the **G.I. Joe Yearbook** is flying off the shelf. The report from the Midwest is that **Captain America** is selling strong across the board, while **Daredevil** and **The Thing** have slowed down. DC's **Blue Devil** has good collector response, and many polled stated that the **America vs. The Justice Society** mini-series was one of DC's better titles. Marvel's **Power Pack** and **Spider-Man** #252 have dipped a bit, but reports are that new interest in Spider-Man in general is on the upswing.

Independent publishers' titles that show great promise are **The P.I.'s** and **The Elementals**. **DNAgents** is doing great across the country.

Finally, reports on Mirage's **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** are amazing. The first printing is just not to be had, while the second printing is going for more than $15, when available.

ARTISTS ABBREVIATIONS

NA — Neal Adams
AA — Alfredo Alcala
JA — Jim Aparo
RA — Ross Andru
TA — Terry Austin
SA — Sergio Aragones
DA — Dan Adkins
JAb — Jack Abel
BA — Brent Anderson
MA — Murphy Anderson
MB — Matt Baker
CB — Carl Barks
CCB — C.C. Beck
FB — Frank Brunner
BB — Brian Bolland
RB — Rich Buckler
PB — Pat Broderick
JB — John Buscema
JBy — John Byrne
SB — Sal Buscema
NC — Nick Cardy
HC — Howard Chaykin
JCr — Johnny Craig
DC — Dave Cockrum
GC — Gene Colan
RCo — Rich Corben
EC — Ernie Colon
DD — Dick Dillin
MD — Mort Drucker
JDi — Jayson Disbrow
SD — Steve Ditko
GD — Gene Day
WE — Will Eisner
BE — Bill Elder
GE — George Evans
BEv — Bill Everett
RE — Ric Estrada
FF — Frank Frazetta
MG — Michael Golden
FG — Floyd Gottfredson
FGu — Fred Guardineer
KG — Keith Giffen
PG — Paul Gulacy
BG — Butch Guice
DGr — Dan Green
DG — Dick Giordano
MGr — Mike Grell
MGu — Mike Gustovich
KGa — Kerry Gammill
RH — Russ Heath
WH — Wayne Howard
DH — Don Heck
FH — Fred Hembeck
BH — Bob Hall
CI — Carmine Infantino
GI — Graham Ingels
JJ — Jeff Jones
KJ — Klaus Janson
JKa — Jack Kamen
MK — Mike Kaluta
GK — Gil Kane
WK — Walt Kelly
JK — Jack Kirby
RK — Roy Krenkel
BK — Bernie Krigstein
BL — Bob Layton
JKu — Joe Kubert
JL — Jose Luis Garcia Lopez
HK — Harvey Kurtzman
RM — Russ Manning
MM — Mort Meskin
FM — Frank Miller
RMo — Ruben Moreira
PM — Pete Morisi
JM — Jim Mooney
GM — Gray Morrow
VM — Val Mayerik
FMc — Frank McLaughlin
LMc — Luke McDonnell
AM — Al Milgrom
BMc — Bob McLeod
MN — Mike Nasser
DN — Don Newton
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Abbreviations
A - Appearance of
C - Cameo of
(c) - cover
D - Death of
I - Introduction of
(j) - inks
J - Joining of
L - Leaving of
M or W - Wedding of
N - New costume
O - Origin of
(p) - pencils
R - Revival of
V - Versus
1 - first appearance of
rep. - reprint
Thg - Thing
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15 CI 2.00
16 WS 2.00
17 low distribution 3.00
18 19 CI low distribution 2.00
20 CI Science 2.00
21 TA/CI Science 1.50
22 63 HC/JSt 1.25
24 32 CI 1.50
33 CI, GD 1.50
34 37 CI 1.50
38 TA/MG 2.00
39 AM Empire 2.00
40 44 AM Empire 2.00
45 CI/GD 1.00
46 CI/TP 1.00
47 CI/GD 1.00
48 CI 1.00
49 WS/TP last issi 1.00
50 WS/KW, TP giant 2.00
51 52 WS/TP 1.00
53 54 CI/WS 1.00
55-66 WS/TP 1.00
67 TP 75
68-69 GD/TP 75
70 75
80-86 .60
87 91 BWi/TP .60
92 1.00

STARHKS

1 limited series $1.00
2-4 .75

STRANGE TALES

101 SD/JK, Human Torch $85.00
102 SD/JK 40.00
103 105 SD/JK 32.00
106 SD, A FF 27.00
107 SD, Torch V Sub-Mariner 25.00
108 SD/JK, A FF 18.00
109 SD/JK, I Sorcerer 18.00
110 SD, The Stranger 60.00
111 SD, Lilubesties 20.00
112 113 SD 10.00
114 SD/JK, Capt. America 15.00
115 SD, D Strange 30.00
116 SD/JK 6.00
120 SP/JK, Iceman 6.00
121 129 SP 4.00
130 SD, C Beatles 7.00
131 133 SD, Thing & Torch 3.00
134 SD, Torch & A Watcher 3.50
135 SD/JK, I Shield 6.00
136 SD/JK, D Strange 4.00
137 146 SD/JK 2.50
147 BE/JK 2.50
148 BE/JK, D Ancient One 3.00
149 BE/JK 2.50
150 BE/JK/JB, I Buscema 3.00
151 BE/JK/JSt, I Starsnko 4.00
152 BE/JK/JSt A Iderar 2.00
153 JM/JSt, A Hydra 2.00
154 LM/JSt, A Hydra 2.00
158 JSt, D Fury 2.50
160 JSt, Capt. America 2.00
161 162 JSt/GD 2.00
164 JSt/DA/BK/JL Yellow Claw 2.00
165 JSt/DA Yellow Claw 2.00
166 DA/GT/JSt, Ancient One 2.00
167 JSt/DA 3.00
168 JSt/DA, D Brother Voodoo 2.50
169 172 JSt, D Brother Voodoo 1.00
174 JB/JM, D Golem 1.00
175 SD Rep-Torr 1.00
176 Gwen 1.50
177 FB, Golem 1.00
178 Dr, Warlock 4.00
179 181 JSt, Warlock 4.00
182 SD/JSt, D Strange rep 75
183 188 JSt, rep 75

ANNUAL

1 rep. $35.00
2 rep. 25.00

SUB-MARINER

1 JB O Sub-Mariner $10.00
2 JB A Triton 5.00
3 JB, A Triton 4.00
4 5 JB 3.50
6 7 JB 3.00
8 JB, A Thing 3.50
9 DA, A Lady Dorma 3.50
10 GC/DA O Lemuria 3.00
11 GC, A Capt. Barracuda 3.00
12 13 3.00
14 Human Torch 3.50
15 19 2.50
20 RL, Dr. Doom 2.50
21 D Lord Seth 2.00
22 Dr. Strange 2.00
23 Klorka 2.00
24 JB/JM, Tiger Shark 2.00
25 SB/JM O Atlantis 2.50
26 SB, A Red Raven 2.00
27 28 2.00
29 SB, V Hercules 1.50
30 SB, A Capt. Marvel 2.00
31 SB, A Triton 1.50
32 SB/JM, A Namora 2.00
33 SB/JM, I Namora 2.00
34 35 SB/JM, Skrulls & Hulk 2.00
36 SB/JM, Goblin, D Namora 2.50
37 RA, D Lady Dorma 2.00
38 JBy/DA O orbital 1.50
39 RA/JM, V Slyra 1.50
40 GC, I Yukala 1.50
41 42 GT 1.25
43 GC, V Kurai 2.00
44 45 2.00
46-49 GC 1.50
50 Bkr, I Peta 1.75
51 53 Bkr 1.50
54 Bkr/AM, V Sunfire 1.50
55 Bkr, V Torg 1.50
56 DA 1.25
57 Bkr 1.25
58 60 Bkr 2.00
61 Bkr, M Dr Hydro 1.25
62 63 HC/JSt 1.25
64 HC/JSt 1.25
65 CH/JSt, She Devil 1.25
66 68 DA 1.25
69 71 GT 1.25
72 DA 1.25

SPECIAL/ANNUAL

1 SB, rep $2.00
2 Bkr, rep 1.75

TALES OF SUSPENSE

39 JK Cl Iron Man $100.00
40 JK 100.00
41 JK 55.00
42 CH/SD, I Mad Phroah 30.00
43 JK/DH, I Kala 25.00
44 DH, SD, Mad Phroah 25.00
45 DH, Lack Forest 25.00
46 DH/CB, Dynamo 15.00
47 SD, Wellet 15.00
48 66 some volume 16.00
49 SD, A Angel 15.00
50 DH, I Mandarin 17.00
51 DH, Scarecrow 8.00
52 DH, I Black Widow 12.00
53 DH, O Watcher 8.00
54 56 DH 6.00
57 DH, I Hawkeye 5.00
58 DH, Capt. America starts 6.00
59 DH/JK, I Ivans 5.00
60 62 DH/JK, Assassins 4.00
63 DH/JK O Capt. America 5.00
64 66 DH/JK 4.00
67 70 DH/JK 3.00
71 DH/JK/WW, Titanium Man 3.00
72 DH/JK, Sleeper 2.50
73 74 JK/GT 2.50
75 JK, Bahrac 2.50
76 JK Mandarin 2.50
77 JK/JBi, Ultron 2.50
78 86 GC/JK 2.50
87 GC, Mole Man 2.50
88 99 GK/GC, Red Skull 2.00

TALES TO ASTONISH

1st SERIES

27 SD, JK, I Ant Man $250.00
28 34 SD/JK 10.00
35 SD/JK, 2 Ant-Man 150.00
36 SD/JK 55.00
37 SD/JK 35.00
38 39 JK/DH 30.00
40 JK/SD/DH 30.00
41 43 DH/SD 12.00
44 JK, SD O Hulk 15.00
45 48 DH/SD 12.00
49 JK/DH/AM Giant Man 15.00
50 JK/SD, Human Top I 12.00
51 JK, Human Top II 6.00
52 I Black Knight 7.00
53 54 DH 5.00
55 59 5.00
60 SD, giant Hulk 5.00
61 64 SD 3.50
65 DH/SD 3.50
66-67 SD 3.50
68-69 JK 3.50
70 JK, Sub-Mariner begins 3.50
71 79 JK 3.00
80 82 GC/JK 2.50
83 JK, Boomerang 2.25
84 GC/JK 2.25
85 GC, JK 2.25
86 JK, Human 2.25
87 BEv 2.25
88 90 BEv/GK 2.25
91 BEv/DA 2.25
92 C Silver Surfer 5.00
93 Silver Surfer 6.00
94 96 BEv 2.00
97 98 2.00
99 100 DA 2.00
101 GC 2.00

TALES TO ASTONISH

2nd SERIES

(Sub-Mariner reprints)

1 JB $1.00
2 14 JB .75

TEAM AMERICA

1 O Team America $1.00
2 9 Marvelor .75
3-4 LMc .75
5-6 .60
7 LMc, V Emperor of Texas .60
8 DP, V Hydra .60
9-11 .60
12 DP, Marauder (unmasking) 1.00

THE THING

1 Jby, Origin $2.50
2 Jby 1.50
3 10 1.00
11 17 Rocky Grimm .75
18-20 1.00

THOR

126 JK, Hercules, cont. of Journey Into Mys- tery #125 $5.00
127 130 JK 4.00
131 133 JK 3.00
134 JK, I High Evolutionary 5.00
135 JK, High Evolutionary 4.00
136 140 JK 3.00
141 142 JK 3.00
143 144 JK 3.00
144 145 JK 3.00
145 146 JK, I Inhumans 3.50
147 148 JK 3.00
149 154 JK 2.50
154 JK, I Mangog 2.50
155 157 JK 2.00
158 159 JK, O Don Blake 3.00
160 JK 2.00
161 JK 2.00
162 JK, O Galactus I 2.50
163 164 JK 2.00
165 166 JK, Hun/Warlock 3.00
167 JK, SF 2.00
168 169 JK O Curtains 2.50
170 174 JK, BE+ 2.00
175 177 JK 2.00
178 JK, C Silver Surfer 2.00
179 JK, V Loki 2.00
180 181 NA 5.00
182 183 JK, Dr. Doom 15.00
184 JB/BE+/JS, Infinity 1.75
185 JB/BE+/JS, Thanos 1.75
186 187 JB/JSt 1.75
188 189 JB, DMe 1.75
189 JB/JSt, Loki 1.75
191 192 JB 1.75
193 JB/JSt, Silver Surfer 6.00
194 JB/JSt 1.50
195 196 JB/JSt 1.50
197 JB, Wrongo 1.50
198 199 JB 1.50
200 JB, Ragnarok 4.00
201 213 JB 1.50
214 216 SB/JBy 1.25
217 JB/SB, I – Kinsta 1.25
218 220 JB 1.25
221 JB, Olympus 1.00
222 JB/DSe, Hercules 1.00
223-224 JB 1.00
225 226 JB 1.50
227 228 JB 1.50
229 230 RB, A Hercules 1.00
231 250 JB 1.00
240 SB/KJ, Seth 1.00
251 253 JB 1.00
254 JK O Dr. Blake 1.75
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256 JB, I Spacer 1.75
257 258 JB 1.75
259 JB, A Spider Man 1.75
260 JB/S 4.00
261 267 WS 1.50
268 271 WS 1.00
272 278 JB 1.75
279 282 1.75
283 285 JB 1.75
286 289 KP 1.75
290 1.75
291 293 KP 1.75
294 KP, O Odin 1.00
295 298 KP 1.75
300 KP giant 1.50
301 KP 1.75
302 1.75
304 308 KP 1.75
309 1.75
310 317 KP 1.75
318 GK, Fafnir 1.75
319 KP, Zarnex 1.75
320 325 1.75
330 BH, Crusader 1.75
331 332 1.75
333 BH, V – Dracula 1.75
334 335 1.75
336 WS, J Symonson Thor 4.00
338 WS Beta Ray Bill 4.00
339 WS, Beta Ray Bill 2.50
340 WS Beta Ray Bill 2.00
341 352 WS 1.00

MINI-COMIC ANNUAL

2 JK, V Destroyer $2.50
3 4 JK, rep 2.00
5-6 JK/JB 1.50
7 WS, Eternals 1.00
8 JB, V Zeus 1.00
9-12 1.00

GIANT SIZE

1 GK, rep $1.00

TIMESPIRIT

1 2 Epic Comics $1.50

TRANSFORMERS

1 $2.00
2-4 1.50

U.S. 1

1 INT, origin $1.00
2-11 INT 75
12 conclusion .75

VISION & SCARLET WITCH

1 Loving Dead $1.25
2-4 1.25

VOID INDIGO

1 VM, Epic Comics 1.50

WARLOCK

1ST SERIES

1 GK Origin $5.00
2 JB, D Counter Earth 3.00
3 GK 2.50
4 GK 2.00
5 GK, Dr. Doom 2.00
6 7 2.00
8 Star 2.00
10 15 JSt 2.50

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1 Epic, rep $2.50
2-6 JSt, rep 2.00

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT

1 MP $4.00
2 7 MP 2.00
8 MP 1.50
9-11 TS 1.50
12 GK 1.50

13-14 MP 2.00
15-16 MP 2.00
17-18 ..... 2.00
19 A/Dracula 2.00
20 ..... 1.50
21-22 GK 1.00
23 ..... 1.00
24-39 GK 1.00
31 ..... 1.00
32 O&I/Moon Knight 15.00
33 Moon Knight 10.00
34 TS 1.00
35-75 JS/BWi 1.00
36 ..... 1.00
37 BWi, A/Moon Knight 6.00
38-41 ..... 1.00
42-43 ..... 1.25

GIANT SIZE

2 SD, Frankenstein rep $2.00
3-5 GK 1.50

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MINI—SERIES

1 BH 2.00
2-4 BH 1.00

WHAT IF?

1 Spider-Man $6.00
2 GK (c), Hulk 4.00
3 GK/KJ, Avengers 3.75
4 GK (c) 3.75
5 Capt. America 3.75
6 Fantastic Fou 3.00
7 GK (c), Spider-Man 3.00
8 GK (c), Daredevil 4.00
9 JK (c), D.Warr/Iron Boy 3.00
10 JB, Thor 2.50
11 JK, Fantastic Four 2.00
12 Hulk 2.00
13 JB, Conan 4.00
14 SgS, Fury 2.00
15 CI, Nova 2.00
16 Fu Manchu 2.00
17 CI, Ghost Rider 2.00
18 TS, Dr. Strange 2.00
19 PR, Spider-Man 2.00
20 Avengers 2.00
21 GC, Sub-Mariner 2.00
22 Dr. Doom 2.00
23 JB, Hulk 2.00
24 GK/BS, Spider-Man 2.00
25 Thor, Avengers 2.00
26 JBy (c), Capt. America 2.00
27 FM (c), X-Men 3.00
28 FM, Daredevil 5.00
29 MG (c), Avengers 1.50
30 RB, Spider-Man 1.50
31 Wolverine 2.50
32 Avengers 1.50
33 BL, Dazzler 2.25
34 FS/FM/JBy/BSz 1.50
35 FM, Elektra 2.50
36 JBy, Fantastic Four 1.50
37 Hulk 1.25
38 Daredevil 1.50
39 Thor, Conan 1.25
40 Dr. Strange 2.25
41 Sub-Mariner 1.25
42 Fantastic Four 1.00
43-45 Hulk 1.00
46 Spider-Man 1.00
47 Thor, Loki 1.00

WOLVERINE

1 FM, H/Marko $3.00
2-4 FM 1.50

X-MEN

1 JK, O X-Men 1 Magneto $400.00
2 JK, 1 Vanisher 185.00
3 JK, 1 Bob 90.00
4 JK, 1 Evil Mutants 80.00
5 JK, 8 Evil Mutants 50.00
6-10 JK 25.00
11 JK, 1 Stranger 15.00
12 A/In, O Prof. X, Juggernaut 15.00
13 JK/SL, A Juggernaut 12.00
14 JK 12.00
20 I Lucifer A Bleb, Unus 12.00
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25 JK (c), 1Ei Tigre 10.00
26-27 ..... 10.00
28 1 Banshee 12.00
29 A.Super Adaptoid 10.00
30 JK (c), 1 Warlock 10.00
31 JK (c), 1 Cobalt Man 7.00
32 A/Juggernaut 7.00
33 GK A/Dr. Strange, Juggernaut 7.00
34 A/Tyrannus, Mole Man 7.00
35 JK (c), A.Xavier-Man Banshee 8.00
36 A.Mekano 7.00
37 A/DH 7.00
41-42 DH/GT 6.00
43 GT/JBi, Magneto, C.Avengers 6.00
44 DH, A/Magneto 7.00
45 Phi/JBi, A/Magneto 6.00
46-47 DH 6.00
48 DH/JR, A/Quasimodo 6.00
49 JSz/DH, C.Magneto 7.00
50-51 JSz, Magneto 11.00
52 DH/WSe/JSt, O.Leona Dane 6.00
53 BS, Smith's 1st 14.00
54-55 BS/DH, O/Havok 10.00
56-63 NA 17.00
64 DH, O.Sentire 11.00
65 NA, A/Havok, SHIELD 17.00
66 SB, A.Hulk, Havok 6.00
67 80 rep 4.00
81-93 rep 3.00
94 GK/DC/BMc, 1New X-Man 90.00
95 GK/DC, O.Thunderbird 40.00
96 SB/DC, 1Mora McTaggart 25.00
97 MG/DC, 1 Lilandra 25.00
98-99 DC 25.00
100 DC 32.00
101 DC, 1Phoenix, A.Juggernaut 30.00
102 DC, O.Storm 20.00
103-104 DC 15.00
105 last Bob Brown art, A.Freiera 15.00
106-107 DC 15.00
108 DC/JBy/TA, A.Fl 25.00
109 DC/JBy/TA, 1Weapon Alpha 20.00
110 DC/TA, A.Warlock 16.00
111 DC/JBy/TA, A.Beast, Magneto 15.00
112 GP/BL/JBy/TA, A.Beast 12.50
113 JBy/BL, A.Magneto, O.Storm 12.50
114-115 JBy/TA 12.50
117 DC/JBy/TA, O.Prof. X 12.50
118-119 JBy/DC, TA 12.50
120 JBy/TA, 1Alpha Flight 22.00
121 DC/JBy/TA, A.Alpha Flight 25.00
122 DC/JBy/TA, 1Hellfire Club 10.00
123 JBy/TA, 1Proletarian 8.50
124-126 DC/JBy/TA 8.50
127 JBy/TA, A.Havok 8.50
128 JBy/GP/TA, A.Proteus 8.50
129 JBy/TA, 1Kitty Pryde 9.00
130 JR2/JBy/TA, 1Dazzler 12.00
131-138 JBy/TA, A.Angel 7.50
139-140 JBy/TA 10.00
141-143 JBy/TA 4.00
144 BA, A.Alien Thing 7.50
145-150 DC 2.00
151 DC/BMc, A.Sentinels 1.75
152 BMc, A.White Queen 1.75
153-155 DC 1.75
156 DC, A.Starjammers 2.00
157-158 DC 1.50
159 BSz, A/Dracula 2.00
160 BA, A/Belasco 1.50
161-163 DC 1.50
164 DC, 1Binary 1.75
165-167 PS 2.50
168-170 PS 1.50
171-174 PS 1.50
175 PS, guest, A/Jake Phoenix 2.00
176-178 JR2 ..... 1.25
179-185 JR2 ..... 1.00
186 BS/TA, Storm 1.25
187-190 JR2 ..... .75

ANNUAL

1 rep X-Men #9, 11 ..... 12.00
2 rep X-Men #22, 23 ..... 12.00
3 FM/GP/TA, 1Arken 5.00
4 JR 2/BMc, A.Dr. Strange 4.00
5 BA/BMc, A.FF 2.00
6 BSz, A/Dracula 2.00
7 BMc, Impossible Man 2.00
8 ..... 1.00

GIANT-SIZE

#1 GK/DC 1&O New X-Men 70.00
#2 GK/KJ rep $17.00

X-MEN AT STATE FAIR

1 Dallas Times-Herald 6.00

X-MEN CLASSICS

1-4 reprints 2.00

X-MEN/MICRONAUTS

1 BG, Limited Series 1.50
2-4 ..... 1.00

GENERAL

GENERAL TYPE TITLES

These are common titles with no special artists or content

FUNNY ANIMAL

15c cover — VG or better $1.25
20c cover — VG or 1.00
25c cover — mostly Harveys ..... .75
35c cover ..... .60
60c cover ..... .60

Archie

12c cover — VG or better $1.00
15c cover — VF-NM ..... .80
20c cover — VG or better ..... .60
25c cover — VF-NM ..... .60
35c cover — VF-NM ..... .50
60c cover — NM ..... .50

MYSTERY

12c cover — VG or better $1.00
15c cover — VG or better ..... .60
20c cover — Mostly DC VG+ ..... .60
35c cover — VG or better ..... .50
40c cover — Fine or better ..... .50
60c cover — NM ..... .50

SCIENCE-FICTION

12c cover — VG or + ... $1.25
15c cover — VG or + ... 1.00
20c cover — VG or + ... .75

WAR

12c cover VG or + ... $ .60
15c cover — VG or + ... .60
20c cover — Mostly DC VG+ ..... .60
35c cover — VG or + ... .50
40c cover — Fine or + ... .50
60c cover — NM ..... .50

WESTERN

15c cover — VG or + ... $1.00
20c cover — VG or + ... .75

PRICE GUIDE

Using the Price Guide for Direct-Market Comics

Alex Malloy consulted a number of dealers around the country and came up with this list of values for near-mint copies of the titles in question.

You'll find that many prices remained stable; the price of the original printing of **Cerebus** #1, for example, is still $200. The price on others has gone up — with the highest increase to be found on the already-cited **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**.

What remains to be seen is the effect of the death of Pacific Comics. Its backlog of unsold issues was recently sold in bulk, and it remains to be seen whether those titles will quickly increase in value.

AARDVARK VANAHEIM

CEREBUS

1 original ... $200.00
2 ... 125.00
3 ... 100.00
4 ... 75.00
5 ... 50.00
6-7 ... 25.00
8-11 ... 20.00
12-15 ... 17.00
16-20 ... 10.00
21-30 ... 2.50
31-67 ... 2.00

FLAMING CARROT

1-2 ... $2.00

JOURNEY

1 ... $2.00
2-14 ... 1.75

MS. TREE

10 ... $1.70

NEIL THE HORSE

1 ... $2.50
2-9 ... 2.00

NORMALMAN

1 ... $2.50
2-5 ... 1.70

STRANGE BREW

1 ... $3.00

SWORDS OF CEREBUS

1-5 ... $5.00

AMERICOMICS

AMERICOMICS

1 ... $3.00
2-4 ... 2.00
5-6 ... 1.75

BLACK DIAMOND

1-3 ... $2.00

BOLT & STARFORCE SIX

1 ... 1.75

CAPTAIN PARAGON

1-2 ... $1.50

STAR MASTERS

1 ... $1.50

ARCHIE ADVENTURE

BLACK HOOD

1-3 Ath/GM ... $1.00

BLUE RIBBON

1-3 ... $1.50
4-13 ... .75

COMET

1-2 Ci ... $1.00

FLY

1 RB ... $1.25
2-6 RB/SD ... 1.00
7-9 ... .75

MANTECH ROBOT WARRIORS

1 ... .75

THE MIGHTY CRUSADERS

1-4 RB ... $1.50
5-8 RB ... .75

ORIGINAL SHIELD

1 ... $1.00
2-4 ... .75

STEEL STERLING

1 ... $1.50
2-7 ... .75

THUNDER BUNNY

1 ... $1.00

CAPITAL

BADGER

1 ... $2.00
2-4 ... 1.75

NEXUS

1-6 ... $1.75

WHISPER

1-2 ... $1.75

COMICO

ELEMENTALS

1 ... 5.00
2 ... 2.50

EVANGELINE

1-2 ... $1.50

MAGE

1-4 ... $1.50

EAGLE

JUDGE DREDD

1 RB ... $2.50
2-6 RB ... 1.50
7-15 RB ... 1.00

JUDGE DREDD: JUDGE CHILD QUEST

1-2 ... $1.50

NEMESIS

1-5 ... $1.50

ROBO-HUNTER

1 ... $1.50
2-5 ... 1.00

ECLIPSE

AXEL PRESSBUTTON

1 ... 1.50

AZTEC ACE

1 ... $2.00
2-7 ... 1.50

BERNI WRIGHTSON

5 ... 1.50

CAP'N QUICK & A FOOZLE

1 ... $1.50

CROSSFIRE

1-5 ... $1.50

DESTROYER DUCK

1-7 ... $1.50

DNAGENTS

1 ... $3.00
2-5 ... 1.75
6-16 ... 1.50

ECLIPSE MONTHLY

1 SD, KJ ... $2.00
2 GC, KJ ... 2.00
3-10 ... 1.50

GROO SPECIAL

1 ... 2.00

JOHN LAW

1-4 ... $2.00

MR. TUFF

1-3 ... $1.00
4-9 ... 1.50

SABRE

1 ... $2.00
2-11 ... 1.50

SCORPIO ROSE

1-2 ... $2.00

SIEGEL & SHUSTER: DATELINE 1930'S

1 ... 1.50

STAR*REACH CLASSICS

1-6 ... $1.50

SYDNEY DAVIS

1 ... 1.50

ZOT!

1-6 ... $1.50

FANTAGRAPHICS

DALGODA

1 ... $2.25
2 ... 1.50

FIRST

AMERICAN FLAGG!

1 HC ... $5.00
2 4 HC ... 3.00
5 12 HC ... 1.50
13 ... 1.00
14 PB ... 1.25
15 17 HC ... 1.25

E-MAN

1 JSa ... $1.50
2 21 JSa ... 1.25

FIRST GRAPHIC NOVEL

1 Beowolf ... $6.00

HOWARD

1 2 ... $3.00
2-8 ... 1.50

JON SABLE, FREELANCE

1 MGr ... $3.50
2 4 MGr ... 2.50
5-8 MGr ... 2.00
9-12 MGr ... 1.75
13 15 MGr ... 1.50
16 21 MGr ... 1.25

MARS

1 ... $2.00
2-5 ... 1.50
6-11 ... 1.25

THE P.I.'S

1 JSa, Ms. Free, E-Man ... 1.50
2 JSt ... 1.25

REMENDER

9-16 ... $1.50
17-19 ... 1.00
20 25 ... 1.25

WARP

1 FB ... $2.00
2-7 FB ... 1.50
8-19 ... 1.25

WARP SPECIAL

1 ... $1.50
2-3 ... 1.00

KITCHEN SINK COMIX

THE SPIRIT

1-6 WE rep ... $2.00

J.C. PRODUCTIONS

HALL OF FAME

1 3 ... $1.00

THUNDER AGENTS

1 2 ... $1.00

MIRAGE

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

1 (1st printing) ... $30.00
1 (2nd printing) ... 15.00

PACIFIC

ALIEN WORLDS

1 AW,VM, NR ... $2.50
2 3 ... 2.00
4 7 ... 1.50

BERNI WRIGHTSON MASTER OF THE MACABRE

1 BW reprints ... $1.50
2 3 BW ... 1.00

BOLD ADVENTURE

1 ... $1.25
2 ... 1.50
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1 SA ... $2.00
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1 NA ... $1.50

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1-2 ... $1.50

CONVENTION CALENDAR

GREAT LAKES

STATES IN REGION: Ill., Ind., Ky., Mich., Ohio and Wis

CLEVELAND, OH - Jan. 13 - Saturday's Child Nostalgia Fest (C. Cd. M. Sf), Holiday Inn, I-77 and Rockside. $ - $1.50. Joe Tricarichi. 2520 Ashurst, Cleveland, OH 44118 PH 216-932-8596

ROYAL OAK, MI - Jan 13 - Encore-Con Comic Book & Baseball Card Show (C, Cd), American Legion Hall, 1815 Rochester Rd., 10am-5pm. A. $1. F. $20 Michael Lester, 16232 Carnage Lamp Ct., Apt. 929, Southfield, MI 48075 PH 313 557-3235

ROCKFORD, IL - Jan. 19 - Comic Book & Baseball Card Show (C, Cd), Quality Inn, Convention Center, 4419 11th St., 10am-4pm, A. 50¢, T. 2I, F. $17.50 Classic Conventions, Gary Johnson, 605 Theodore St., Loves Park, IL 61111 PH. 815-633-8495

FARMINGTON HILLS, MI - Jan 27 - X-TRAVA-CON (C, Cd), American Legion Hall, 29500 W. 9 Mile Road, 10am-4pm, A. n/a, F. $20 Michael Lester, 16232 Carnage Lamp Ct. #929, Southfield, MI 48075, PH 313-557-3235

CHICAGO, IL - Jan 27, Chicago Minicon (C), Americana-Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., A. 75¢, F. $25 Minicon Hotline, PH 312-743-4493

ROCKFORD, IL Feb. 16 - Comic Book & Baseball Card Show (C, Cd), Quality Inn, Convention Center, 4419 11th St., 10am-4pm, A. 50¢, T. 2I, F. $17.50 Classic Conventions, Gary Johnson, 605 Theodore St., Loves Park, IL 61111 PH. 815-633-8495

MADISON, WI - Feb 22-24 - WisCon 9 (Sf), Concourse Hotel, A. $13 until Jan. 31, $18 after WisCon 9, Box 1624, Madison, WI 53701. PH 608-233-5226

CHICAGO, IL - March 3 - Chicago Minicon (C), Americana-Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., A. 75¢ F. $25 Minicon Hotline, PH 312-743-4493

PARK CITY, KY March 8-10 - Con Cave Six (C, Sf), Park Mammoth Resort, KY 255 A. $10, F. $7 until Feb. 14, $9 after, F. $15 ConCave, PO Box 90962, Nashville, TN 37209

ROCKFORD, IL March 16 - Comic Book & Baseball Card Show (C, Cd), Quality Inn, Convention Center, 4419 11th St., 10am-4pm, A. 50¢, T. 2I, F. $17.50, Classic Conventions, Gary Johnson, 605 Theodore St., Loves Park, IL 61111, PH. 815-633-8495

CLEVELAND, OH - March 17 - Saturday's Child Nostalgafest (C, Cd, M, Sf), Holiday Inn North Randall, Rt. 8 at Emery, A. $1.50 Joe Tricarichi, 2520 Ashurst, Cleveland, OH 44118 PH. 216-932-8596

CHICAGO, IL - April 14 - Chicago Minicon (C), Americana-Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., A. 75¢, F. $25 Minicon Hotline, PH 312-743-4493

ROCKFORD, IL April 20 - Comic Book & Baseball Card Show (C, Cd), Quality Inn, Convention Center, 4419 11th St., 10am-4pm, A. 50¢, T. 2I, F. $17.50, Classic Conventions, Gary Johnson, 605 Theodore St., Loves Park, IL 61111 PH. 815-633-8495

CHICAGO, IL - May 19 - Chicago Minicon (C), Americana-Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., A. 75¢, F. $25 Minicon Hotline, PH 312-743-4493

CHICAGO, IL - July 5? - 10th Annual Chicago Comicon (C), Ramada-O'Hare Hotel, A. n/a, Chicago Comicon, 1219 Devon, Chicago, IL 60660 PH 312-764-1832

MILWAUKEE, WI - Aug. 22-25 - GenCon (C, Cd, G), MECCA Convention Center, 500 W. Kilbourn Ave., A. n/a, TSR, Inc, PO Box 756, Lake Geneva, WI 53147 PH: 414-248-3625

MIDDLE ATLANTIC

STATES IN REGION: Del., Md., N.C., S.C., Va., W. Va and Wash. D.C.

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA - Jan. 5 - Jubilee Comic Book & Science Fiction Convention (C, Sf), Pavilion Convention Center, 1000 19th St., 10am-6pm, A. $2.95, F. $30 Jubilee Enter., 11910 Asbury Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744 PH. 301-292-4587

WILLIAMSBURG, VA - Jan 12 - Jubilee Comic Book & Science Fiction Convention (C, Sf), Holiday Inn, 902 Richmond Rd., (near Wm & Mary campus), 10am-6pm, A. $2.75, T. 20, F: $35 Jubilee Enter., 11910 Asbury Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744 PH 301-292-4587

CHARLOTTE, NC - Jan 19 - Charlotte MiniCon (C, Sf), Eastland Mall, Community Room, Central Ave. & Sharon Amity Rd. A. $2, H. Shelton Drum, 1214 Thomas Ave., Charlotte, NC 28205 PH 704-375-7462

SILVER SPRING, MD - Jan 19 - Jubilee Comic Book & Science Fiction Convention (C, Sf), Armory Place, 925 Wayne Ave., 10am-5pm, A. $3.75, F. $35 Jubilee Enter., 11910 Asbury Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744 PH: 301-292-4587

CHARLESTON, SC - Feb. 17 - Jubilee Comic Book & Science Fiction Convention (C, Sf), Marriott Hotel, 4770 Marriott Dr., 10am-4pm, A. $3.50, T. 30, F. $35, Jubilee Enter., 11910 Asbury Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744 PH. 301-292-4587

ARLINGTON, VA - Feb 23 - Jubilee Comic Book & Science Fiction Convention (C, Sf), Holiday Inn, 1489 Jeff Davis Hwy., 10am-5pm, A. $3.75, F. $40 Jubilee Enter., 11910 Asbury Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744 PH 301-292-4587

NORFOLK, VA - March 3 - All-Star Comic Book Show (C), Ramada Inn, Newtown Road, Va Beach Expwy Exit #1, 10am-5pm, A. $1, T. 35, F. $25-$35 Joe Morano, PO Box 12694, Norfolk, VA 23502 PH 804-486-7191 after 7 pm.

RALEIGH, NC - March 15-17 - Gaming & Science Fiction Convention (G, Sf), N.C.S.U. Campus, A. free, SSAB, NC State Campus Society, PO Box 5061, Raleigh, NC 27650

SILVER SPRING, MD - March 16 - Jubilee Comic Book & Science Fiction Convention (C, Sf), Armory Place, 925 Wayne Ave., 10am-5pm, A. $3.75, F. $35, Jubilee Enter., 11910 Asbury Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744 PH: 301-292-4587

ARLINGTON, VA - April 13 - Jubilee Comic Book & Science Fiction Convention (C, Sf), Holiday Inn, 1489 Jeff Davis Hwy., 10am-5pm, A. $3.75, F. $40, Jubilee Enter., 11910 Asbury Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744. PH: 301-292-4587

CHARLOTTE, NC - June 22-23 - Heroes Convention (C, Sf), Marriott City Center, Trade St. & Tryon St., A. n/a

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5-12	1.25	**Justice Machine Arm.**		45 up	
Set (1-12	15.00	1	8.00	Annual	
Cloak & Dagger		2 3	2.25	2 (1st Vigilante)	
(mini-series)		4-up	1.25	3 (Death of Terra)	
1	1.50	(1st app. of Elementals)		**Omega Men**	
2-4	1.00	**Kitty & Wolverine**		1	
Set (1-4)	3.00	1	1.00	2	
1 (New series)	.75	2 3	80	3	
2-up	.75	4-6	.75	4-up	
Contest of Champions		Set (1-6)	4.00	**Peter Parker**	
1	3.00	1	2.50	2	
2 3	2.50	64 (1st app of Cloak & Dagger)	8.00	3	
Set (1 3)	7.00	65 70 (2nd app Cloak & Dagger)	1.50	4-up	
Crisis On Infinite Earths		4-up	1.25	**Teen Titans (Drug Issues)**	
1	.75	90 (New Costumes)	1.50	1	
2	.50	100	1.25	2	
3-up	.75	**Marvel Fanfare**		3 (scarce)	
Daredevil (Miller)		1	1.50	**Thor**	
168 (1st Electra)	12.00	2 3	1.00	143 (Last Byrne)	
181 (Death of Electra)	2.50	4-up	.75	144 146	
190 (Return of Electra)	1.00	**Marvel Fanfare (Mini-Series)**		147 149	
Electra Saga (Miller)	.75	1	10.00	150	
1	2.00	2 3	4.00	151 163	
2-4	1.50	4-up	2.00	164 (1st Paul Smith)	
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(Miller & Sienkiewicz)	6.95	(New Updated Edition)	.75	1	
Elementals		1	1.00	2	
1	7.00	**New Mutants**		3	
2, 3	4.00	1	7.00	4-up	
G.I. Joe		2 3	1.50	**Web of Spiderman**	
1	7.50	4-up	1.00	1	
				2	
				3	
				4-up	
				Wolverine	
				1	
				2 3	
				Set (1 4)	
				X-Men (Mini-Series)	
				1	
				2	
				3	
				4-up	
				X-Men (Below Gude)	
				94	
				95	
				96-99	
				100, 101 (Old X-Men vs. New X-Men	
				102 & engin of Phoenix)	
				103 (1st Gold Edition)	
				104 (Judas Contract, 1st Nightwing)	
				105-111	
				112 119	
				120, 121 (1st Alpha Flight)	
				122 128	
				129 (Last Byrne)	
				130 (1st Dazzler	
				131 136, 138, 139	
				137	
				140 (2nd Alpha Flight)	
				141 (Intro. Future X-Men & New Brother hood)	
				142 (Deaths of Wolverine, Storm & Colossus)	
				143 (Last Byrne)	
				144 146	
				147 149	
				150	
				151 163	
				164 (1st Paul Smith)	
				165 (Double size)	
				166 175	
				176 181	
				182 185	
				186 Double size	
				187 up	
				Giant Size	
				1 (1st app X-Men)	
				X-Men/Teen Titans	
				1 (Simonson Art)	
				X-Men/Micronauts	
				1	
				2 4	
				Set (1 4)	
				1 up (New Series)	

H. Shelton Drum, 1214 Thomas Ave., Charlotte, NC 28205 PH 704 375-7462

MOUNTAIN

STATES IN REGION: Ariz., Colo., Idaho, Mont., Nev., N.M., Utah and Wyo.

DENVER, CO - April 26-28 - Alt-Egos (C, St), Sheraton Denver Tech Center, 4900 Denver Tech Parkway. A: $20 Alt-Egos, Box 261000, Lakewood, CO 80226

NEW ENGLAND

STATES IN REGION: Conn., Maine, Mass., N.H., R.I. and Vt.

GREENWICH, CT - Jan 6 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show (C, Cd), Sheraton Hotel, 1114 Boston Post Road, I-95 Exit 5, 10am-4pm, A free, C,J,B., Jr., Box 432, Wantagh, NY 11793 PH 516-735-6478

BOSTON, MA - Jan 12-13 - Creation Convention (C, ST, DW, SF, M), Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., 11am-7pm daily, A $9 daily or $12 at the door PH 516-747-2677

GREENWICH, CT - Feb 3 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show (C, Cd), Sheraton, 1114 Boston Post Road, I-95 Exit 5, 10am-4pm, A free, C,J,B., Jr., Box 432, Wantagh, NY 11793 PH 516-735-6478

GREENWICH, CT - March 3 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show (C, Cd), Sheraton, 1114 Boston Post Road, I-95 Exit 5, 10am-4pm, A free, C,J,B., Jr., Box 432, Wantagh, NY 11793 PH 516-735-6478

PORTSMOUTH, NH - March 16 - Mini-Con (C, Cd, M), Howard Johnson's, Traffic Circle, 10am-8pm, A n/a, Ralph DiBernardo, 69 Middle Rd., Portsmouth, NH 03801 PH 603-436-2541

MARLBORO, MA - March 31 - Collectors Show (C, Cd), Holiday Inn, Rt 20 off 495, 9am-3pm, A $1 (A & R Promotions, PO Box 34, Marlboro, MA 01752 PH. 617-485-6500)

GREENWICH, CT - April 14 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show (C, Cd), Sheraton, 1114 Boston Post Road, I-95 Exit 5, 10am-4pm, A free, C,J,B., Jr., Box 432, Wantagh, NY 11793 PH 516-735-6478

GREENWICH, CT - May 5 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show, (C, Cd), Sheraton, 1114 Boston Post Road, I-95 Exit 5, 10am-4pm, A free, C,J,B., Jr., Box 432, Wantagh, NY 11793 PH 516-735-6478

GREENWICH, CT - June 2 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show (C, Cd), Sheraton, 1114 Boston Post Road, I-95 Exit 5, 10am-4pm, A free, C,J,B., Jr., Box 432, Wantagh, NY 11793 516-735-6478

GREENWICH, CT - Sept 8 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show (C, Cd), Sheraton, 1114 Boston Post Road, I-95 Exit 5, 10am-4pm, A free, C,J,B., Jr., Box 432, Wantagh, NY 11793 PH 516-735-6478

GREENWICH, CT - Oct 6 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show (C, Cd), Sheraton, 1114 Boston Post Road, I-95 Exit 5, 10am-4pm, A free, C,J,B., Jr., Box 432, Wantagh, NY 11793 PH 516-735-6478

GREENWICH, CT - Nov 3 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show (C, Cd), Sheraton, 1114 Boston Post Road, I-95 Exit 5, 10am-4pm, A free, C,J,B., Jr., Box 432, Wantagh, NY 11793 PH 516-735-6478

GREENWICH, CT - Dec 8 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show (C, Cd), Sheraton, 1114 Boston Post Road, I-95 Exit 5, 10am-4pm, A free, C,J,B., Jr., Box 432, Wantagh, NY 11793 PH 516-735-6478

NORTHEAST

STATES IN REGION: N.J., N.Y. and Pa.

BAYSIDE, QUEENS, NY - Jan 5 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show (C, Cd), Adria II Conference Center, 221-17 Northern Blvd., 10am-5pm, A free, Steve Sabow, 217-15 47th Rd., Bayside, NY 11361 PH 212-631-2025 or Mitch Nat, 200-34 45th Dr., Bayside, NY 11361 PH 212-224-9699

PITTSBURGH, PA - Jan 12 - Transfer Monthly Show (C, SF, M), Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, 3401 Blvd. of the Allies, Dealers Room 10am-5pm, Films 7pm-10pm, A $2.50, F $30, BEM, PO Box 8619, Pittsburgh, PA 15221 PH 412-243-2736

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY - Jan 13 - Long Island Comic Book & Collectors Market Convention (C, Cd, M), Holiday Inn, 173 Sunrise Hwy., 10am-5pm, A free, 30 Cosmic Comics & Books, 139 N Park Ave., Rockville Centre, NY 11570 PH. 516-763-1133

NEW YORK CITY, NY - Jan 13 - Show, The Roosevelt, Madison Ave at 45th St., A n/a, Sea Gate Distributors, 657 Fifth Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215 PH 718-788-1126

NEW YORK, NY - Jan 19 - Eastern Convention (C), Skyline Motor Inn, 725 10th Ave., 10am-4pm, A: $2, F: $40 Fred Greenspun, 973 Main St., Parsippany, NJ 07054 PH. 201-335-1849

NEW YORK CITY, NY - Feb 3 - Show, The Roosevelt, Madison Ave at 45th St., A n/a, Sea Gate Distributors, 657 Fifth Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215 PH 718-788-1126

BAYSIDE, QUEENS, NY - Feb 3 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show (C, Cd), Adria II Conference Center, 221-17 Northern Blvd., 10am-5pm, A free, Steve Sabow, 217-15 47th Rd., Bayside, NY 11361, PH. 212-631-2025 or Mitch Nat, 200-34 45th Dr., Bayside, NY 11361 PH 212-224-9699

PITTSBURGH, PA - Feb 9 - Transfer Monthly Show (C, SF, M), Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, 3401 Blvd of the Allies, Dealers Room 10am-5pm, Films 7pm-10pm, A: $2.50, F: $30 BEM, PO Box 8619, Pittsburgh, PA 15221 PH 412 243 2736

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY - Feb. 10 - Long Island Comic Book & Collectors Market Convention (C, Cd, M), Holiday Inn, 173 Sunrise Hwy., 10am-5pm, A: free, T: 30 Cosmic Comics & Books, 139 N. Park Ave., Rockville Centre, NY 11570 PH. 516-763-1133

MAZLET, NJ - Feb. 10 - Comic Book & Baseball Card Show (C, Cd), Sheraton Inn, Route 35 So., Garden State Pkwy. Exit 117, 9:30am-4pm, A: $1.50, F: $30 Mike Grecco, PO Box 189, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716 PH. 291-1632

EAST HARTFORD, CT - Feb 24 - ConnectiCon (C), Ellis Hall 148 Roberts St., 11am-5pm, A 99¢, F $20 Harold Kinney, RFD 1 Box 218A, Andover, CT 06232 PH. 203-289-1208

BAYSIDE, QUEENS, NY - March 9 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show (C, Cd), Adria II Conference Center, 221-17 Northern Blvd., 10am-5pm, A free, Steve Sabow, 217-15 47th Rd., Bayside, NY 11361, PH. 212-631-2025 or Mitch Nat, 200-34 45th Dr., Bayside, NY 11361 PH 212-224-9699

PITTSBURGH, PA - March 10 - Transfer Monthly Show (C, SF, M), Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, 3401 Blvd of the Allies, Dealers Room 10am-5pm, Films 7pm-10pm, A: $2.50, F: $30, BEM, PO Box 8619, Pittsburgh, PA 15221 PH 412-243-2736

BAYSIDE, QUEENS, NY - April 13 - Baseball Card & Comic Book Show (C, Cd), Adria II Conference Center, 221-17 Northern Blvd., 10am-5pm, A: free, Steve Sabow, 217-15 47th Rd., Bayside, NY 11361, PH. 212-631-2025 or Mitch Nat, 200-34 45th Dr., Bayside, NY 11361 PH 212-224-9699

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY - April 14 - Long Island Comic Book & Collectors Market Convention (C, Cd, M), Holiday Inn, 173 Sunrise Hwy., 10am-5pm, A: free, T: 30 Cosmic Comics & Books, 139 N Park Ave., Rockville Centre, NY 11570 PH. 516-763-1133

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EAST HARTFORD, CT - April 28 - ConnectiCon (C), Ellis Hall, 148 Roberts St., 11am-5pm, A 99¢, F $20 Harold Kinney, RFD 1 Box 218A, Andover, CT 06232 PH. 203-289-1208

NEW YORK CITY, NY - April 28 - Show (C), The Roosevelt, Madison Ave at 45th St., A n/a, Sea Gate Distributors, 657 Fifth Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215 PH 718-788-1126

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY - May 5 - Long Island Comic Book & Collectors Market Convention (C, Cd, M), Holiday Inn, 173 Sunrise Hwy., 10am-5pm, A: free, T: 30 Cosmic Comics & Books, 139 N. Park Ave., Rockville Centre, NY 11570 PH. 516-763-1133

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ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY - May 5 - Long Island Comic Book & Collectors Market Convention (C, Cd, M), Holiday Inn, 173 Sunrise Hwy., 10am-5pm, A: free, T:

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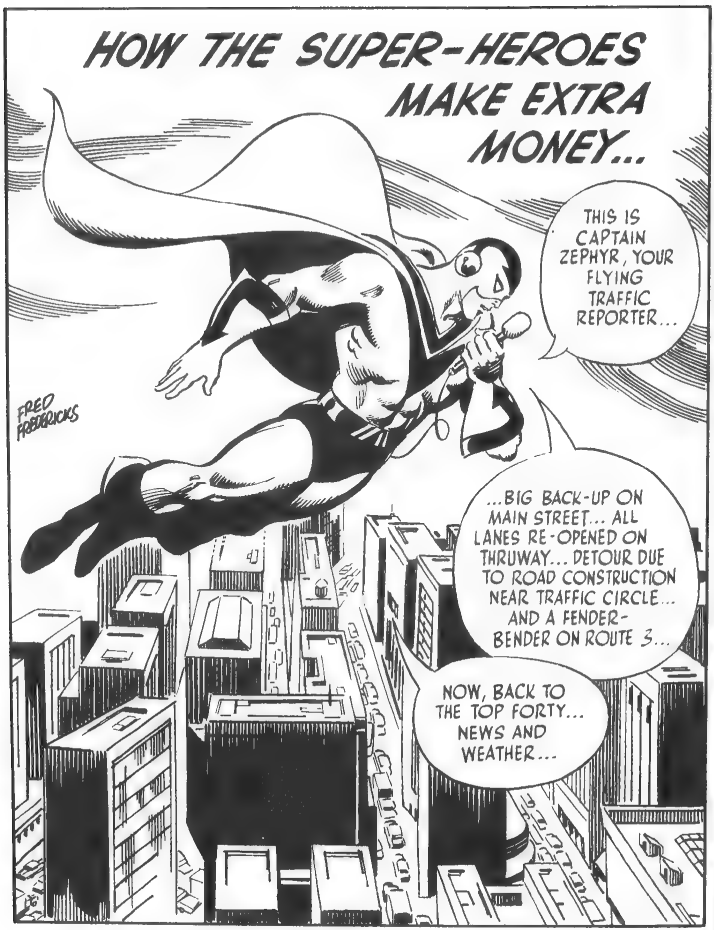
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CONCORD, CA - Jan 6 - Charmworld's Cosmic Hero Con (C, Cd, M), Concord Inn, 1401 Willow Pass Road, 11am-5pm, A: $2 Al Charmatz, 3049 Sharon Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94598, PH 415-930-0640.

SAN JOSE, CA - Jan 13 - AmerCon, LeBaron Hotel, 1350 N. 1st. A $3.50 Dan Vado, PO Box 6993, San Jose, CA 95150 PH 408-279-8070 or 295-5680

PORTLAND, OR - March 24 - Phoenix 13 (C), Memorial Coliseum, Broadway & Wheeler, A: $1 Richard Finn, 1112 NE 21st, Portland, OR 97232 PH 503-281-1821.

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SAN JOSE, CA May 24-27 - Baycon '85 (C), Red Lion Inn, A: n/a Baycon '85, PO Box 70393, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

PLAINS

STATES IN REGION: Iowa, Kan., Minn. Mo. Neb., N.D. and S.D.

DAVENPORT, IA - March 10 - Baseball Card & Comics Show (C, Cd). Masonic Temple, 115 W. 7th St., 9am-5pm, A. $1, 7 70, F-$30 George Miller, 3251 24th Ave., Rock Island, IL 61201 PH 309-793-4833

SOUTH CENTRAL

STATES IN REGION: Ark., La., Okla and Tex.

TULSA, OK - May 10-12 - Conjunction SF/Fantasy Convention (SF, F) Camelot Hotel, I-44 & So. Peoria. A 3 days/$13 per 1 day/$5, F $25-$35, Patricia Benton PO Box 690064, Tulsa, OK 74169 PH 918-438-3336

SOUTHEAST

STATES IN REGION: Ala., Fla., Ga., Miss. and Tenn.

SARASOTA, FL - Jan 12-13 Baseball Card, Comic Book & Collectible Show (C, Cd). Airport Holiday Inn 8221 N. Tamiami Trail, Sat, 9am-5pm, Sun 11am-4pm. A $2.50, children $1, F, 2/$75. 3/$100 Southern Collectibles, PO Box 466, Hollywood, FL 33022 PH 305-920-8256

ORLANDO, FL - Jan 13 - Collectors Con (C, Sf), Sheraton Inn, 738 Lee Rd., 10am-5pm, A, $1 Jan Ivey, 561 Ohsipo Ave., Orlando, FL 32807. PH 305-273-0141

SAVANNAH, GA - Jan 19 20 - Con-Thing (C). Oglethorpe Mall, 7804 Abercorn St. Ext., A free Richard & Philip Levy, 5407 Reynolds St., Savannah, GA 31405 PH 912-354-2120 or 354 2138

MIAMI, FL - Feb 1-3 - Omnicon VI (C, DW, M, SF), Biscayne Bay Marriott Hotel & Marina, A, $26 50 until Nov 30 Omnicon VI, PO Box 970308, Miami, FL 33197 PH 305-253-6842

JACKSON, MS - Feb 2 - Mississippi Sportcard & Comic Book Show (C, Cd). Holiday Inn Southwest US 80 at Ellis, 10am-4pm, A, $1. Henry Blum, PO Box 9310, Columbus, MS 39705 PH 601 329-4260

PENSACOLA, FL - Feb 22-24 - Universe Con (C, Cd, Sf) University Mall, Davis Hwy. A free Robert L. Underwood, 4968 Springhill Dr., Pensacola, FL 32503 PH 904-478-2203

ST. PETERSBURG, FL Feb 23-24 - 2nd Paper Collectables & Postcard Show (C, Cd), National Guard Armory, 38th Ave South, Sat 9am-7pm, Sun 10am 5pm, A, $1, F 60 Evans Events, PO Box 62, Seffner, FL 33584

BILOXI, MS - March 8-10 - CoastCon '85 (Sf), Royal d'Iberville Hotel, A $12 50 until Feb 22, $15 at door CoastCon, Box 1423 Biloxi MS 39533

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GUM CARDS wanted. We are paying 20¢ per card for all cards from the following series. Excellent-Mint. Duplicates acceptable. Beverly Hillbillies, Beatles, Ben Casey, Civil War News, Combat!, Dark Shadows, Davy Crockett, Elvis Presley, Dr. Kildare, Garrison's Gorillas, Get Smart, Gilligan's Island, Green Hornet, Hee Haw, Hopalong Cassidy, Hogan's Heroes, Isolation Booth, James Bond, King Kong, Land of the Giants, Lost in Space, Man From Uncle, Mod Squad, Monkees, Munsters, Outer Limits, Robin Hood, Roundup, Soupy Sales, Star Trek, Superman, Tarzan, Three Stooges, TV Western Stars, Voyage to Bottom of Sea, Waltons, Zorro. Series listed date 1950s. Send your cards for our immediate payment. A dealer since 1967, we can be trusted with your material. Will also trade comics for your cards. PH: 602-830-1855. Ed Kalb, 3227 E. Enid, Mesa, AZ 85204

PLAYBOY WANTED 1953-1963, calendars, V.I.P., SBI related material. Adult mags, pin-up art, scarce U.G. Comix. Kenneth Ritchie, 2159 New Meadow, Germantown, TN 38138.

4322 GENERAL TO TRADE

WILL TRADE our comics for your ball cards, memorabilia, coins, etc. PH: 803-797-2646, no collect calls. Write, Swamp Fox Collectibles, #7 Northwoods Mall, Charleston, SC 29418.

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4323 GENERAL MAIL BID

MONTHLY AUCTION catalogue of rare comics, BLBs, Disneyana, animation cels and drawings, original comic book and strip art, props, movie material, more. 300-400 items each issue, fully illustrated. $1 for current issue to: Collectors Showcase, 6763 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90028.

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4420 BOOKS GENERAL FOR SALE

THE DUCKBURG Times - a quarterly publication devoted to Disney with articles, interviews, reviews, news and letters. 4 issue subscription $5. #10/11, #17/18, $2.00ea; #13-16, 19, $1.25ea. Mickey Mouse checklist $1.50. 400 Valleyview, Selah, WA 98942.

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4421 BOOKS GENERAL WANTED

VINTAGE PAPERBACKS and pulps wanted. Complete libraries purchased. The Bookie, 145 James Street North, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8R 2K8.

WANTED: COMIC books, pulp magazines and paperback books, pre-1960. Please indicate condition and selling price. Roger Boschetto, 205 Horizon Drive, Edison, NJ 08817.

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COLLECTOR CARDS: The original comics indexing system, serving Fandom over 10 years. Handy 3"x5" file cards show which you need, have and condition. Each records up to 100 issues. 50/$1.50, 100/$2.50, 200/$4, 400/$7.50, 600/$10. Dealer/quantity rates. SASE. Postage 1¢/card. PH: 602-838-3629. Visions, Box 28283, Dept. CC7, Tempe, AZ 85282-0622.

4610 PORTFOLIOS/POSTERS FOR SALE

8X10 MOVIE, television, soap star photographs. Catalog $1. Wholesale, retail. Special prices for comic and nostalgia dealers. Bigreel, Madison, NC 27025.

4660 GENERAL FOR SALE

COMICS, PULPS, Life Magazines. Several hundred Golden Age and other comics including Donald Duck, comics and stories, Archie, Felix, Tubby, Jughead, Uncle Scrooge, Popeye, E.C.'s, and 4-color. All comics 35% below guide. About 1,200 Life Magazines 1930-70. About 200 "Adventure" pulps. Send for free lists. Ruben Heredia, 3793 Adobe Lane, Oroville, CA 95965.

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SUPERMAN COLLECTIBLES wanted! All Superman toys, games, figurines, premiums, coloring books, puzzles, buttons, banks, watches, novelties, anything Superman!! Since 1962, "America's Foremost Superman Collector." Danny Fuchs, 209-80K 18th Avenue, Bayside, NY 11360.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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10		11	12	13	Free Zip		14	

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6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30

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